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THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Vol. 3, No. 4 August 1992

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WORKS IN PROGRESS

"It is the weak who are cruel; gentleness is to be expected only from the strong." Leo Rosten

Free

Zero Tolerance For Hate Crimes

Joli Sandoz

Rude words fill the TV screen. Background voices tell bigoted jokes. Then short, violent film clips provide a backdrop for written messages.

Sound provocative? That's the point. The public service announcement, which aired on Seattle stations during the month of July, was intended to "generate a lot of discussion" about bigotry and escalating hate crimes, according to Terrry Wittman. Wittman, director of Seattle's Citizen's Service Bureau, which answed the phone number given in the TV ad, said the spot was part of the city's "Summer of Reconciliation and Rededication," Mayor Norm Rice's response to violence in Los Angeles after the Rodney King verdict in April.

One of the written messages told viewers that hate crimes are up 54% in the Puget Sound area. And according to a Tacoma Hate Crimes Task Force report published in the *Morning News Tribune*, the problem is not confined to the Seattle area. Hate crime incidents in Tacoma alone have increased from 34 during the last six months of 1991 to 51 during the first half of 1992.

Concern for "law and order" prompted Olympia City Council member Mark Foutch to propose local hate crime legislation. The ordinance is scheduled for consideration at the regular council meeting August 4.

Foutch, who describes himself as "retired military, standard-issue, middle class" said that he feels "people ought to be able to walk down the street, live in homes, go to work - without fear of being assaulted either verbally or physically. It's social and political terrorism to assault any group of people, whether it is Vietnam vets, homeless alcoholics, or people with AIDS. If we're going to have disagreements, let's do it on a civilized basis."

Five hate crimes were committed locally during the last 12 months, according to Kathy Seeley, Support Systems Manager for the Olympia Police Department. While the number is relatively minor compared to those in Seattle and Tacoma, the fear and anger hate crimes leave in their wake are not. The Olympia incidents ranged from a "very intimidating" call left on a phone message machine to assault with a baseball bat.

Five hate crimes were committed locally during the last 12 month . . . The Olympia incidents ranged from a "very intimidating" call left on a phone message machine to assault with a baseball bat.

Washington state law (RCW 9A.36.080) declares a person guilty of "malicious harassment" when causing physical injury, or when placing another person in "reasonable fear of harm" to person or property, with "intent to intimidate or harass" because of "race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin or mental, physical, or sensory handicap."

The operative part of the law is the word "intent", according to Seeley. "It's the motive that makes an act a hate crime," she said. "If I'm white, and another white person calls me a racial slur and writes it on my house, it's a crime, but not necessarily a hate crime. Or say I'm walking down the street carrying a purse and someone takes it away, hollers 'You (racial slur)!' and keeps on running. Did the person want the purse, or want to commit a hate crime?"

Seeley is currently training Olympia police officers and speaking to local groups to raise community awareness of malicious harassment. "We want to break down reluctance about reporting these incidents," Seeley said. "And we want to tell people that the police have a zero tolerance for hate crimes. We intend to enforce to the fullest extent of the law." Malicious harassment is a Class C felony in Washington state. Persons convicted may be punished by up to a $10,000 fine and/or five years in prison, and may be civilly liable for damages as high as $10,000.

During the last six months of 1991, according to the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, 211 hate crimes were committed state-wide. Local law-enforcement officers classed 137 of those as racially motivated. The second largest category, crimes motivated by sexual orientation, contained 44 incidents.

Washington's law, already under review by the state Supreme Court, received another blow last month when the U.S. Supreme Court declared unconstitutional a hate crime ordinance in St. Paul, Minnesota. The majority opinion written by Justice Antonin Scalia ruled that the ordinance violated the First Amendment protection of free speech by singling-out specific content categories (race and gender) while leaving out others (union membership, political affiliation, for example). "The government may not regulate use," Scalia wrote, "based on hostility or favoritism towards the underlying message expressed."

Washington ACLU Legislative Director Jerry Sheehan says that if the state law is declared unconstitutional some acts previously against the law will no longer be covered. "There are other discrete laws that turn on assault, for example," he said, "But they don't necessarily address why the wrongful act was being committed." Sheehan expects a decision on the Washington law this fall.

Last year when King County Superior Court Judge Marsha Pechman first found Washington's malicious harassment law unconstitutional, state legislators worked to revamp the statute. But when House members added lesbians and gay men to the list of protected groups, the Senate responded by proposing a version without sexual orientation. Both measures died.

Despite widespread concern by civil rights and hate crime monitoring organizations, Sheehan said that

(Continued on back page)

How to Report Malicious Harassment

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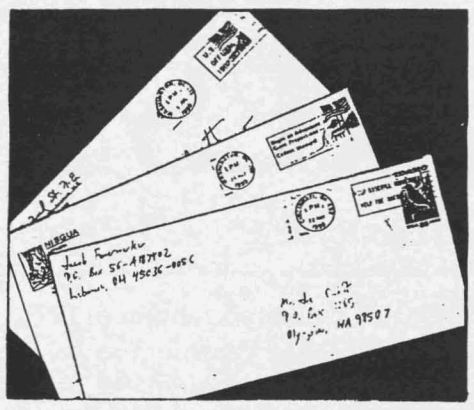

Dan Leahy Draws Rebuttal

To WIP Editor:

Biff! Pow! The implacable Dan Leahy has fetched me two hard licks. I don't know which one smarts the most, "political cowardice" or "high camp."

Let's see. Because I believed the law gave us no real options, I voted twice against the expressed desires of hundreds of petitioners. Then, when any prudent politician would have kept his head down, I wrote two (2) articles explaining my position and submitted them to the publication running the opposition's views. That may be political insanity, but it doesn't fit my definition of cowardice.

As for "high camp," consider Dan's howl of outrage at his "discovery" that I'm part of "The System." All *seven* of us are part of "The System"--that's what I've been trying to tell you all along. What does he expect a City Council to be? It's a body created, empowered--and limited in its powers--by State law. We're a bunch of middle-class good-government types who understand the value, and the occasional frustration, of applying the rules even-handedly. Revolutionaries we're definitely not. In other contexts, I'm sure Dan is darned glad our powers *are* limited and that we try our best to play by the rules. In this instance he resorts to name-calling when a 6-1 decision goes against his single-issue position.

Dan says my articles were intended, in part, to get the readers to feel sorry for us. Heck, we *asked* for this job, and I don't see any of us leaving in midterm. Don't cry for us, faithful readers. The truth is, we enjoy our duties. I just wanted to explain the Council's role in the various Harrison Avenue zoning issues because I wanted WIP readers not to have unrealistic ideas of what we could accomplish in the short term, and what kind of a process was necessary to bring change to the area.

Excuse me, but I have to go now. We cowardly tools of "The System" are considering development impact fees (opposed by the real estate, development, and building community) and will be moving on to hate crimes.

The impact fee debate is one with broad long-term implications for the kind of community we'll have in the future. It's not an easy call--the new tax is regressive and raises the price of housing. Those are the main drawbacks, but I think we can deal with them to some extent and the benefits outweigh them. Alternatives (one is reduced levels of service for parks, schools, fire protection and roads) seem unacceptable.

What do *You* think?

Mark Foutch

An Experience of that Explains Why Medical Costs are so High

Erma Jean King

Ed. Note: The following is a letter written to a local resident by his mother concerning her experiences with the medical establishment this last winter.

All is well here - [the] weather has been great - finally received a fair amount of snow and it has stayed on the ground for awhile.

Jack stuck me and placed a tube in my arm for intravenous feeding . . . I told him it stung afterwards but transport came again and he started me down to the OR - I again said "THIS HURTS WORSE NOW THAN WHEN YOU STUCK ME."

Now, are you really ready for laughs? As I believe you know I have a couple of trigger fingers - middle finger on each hand. My brother kept telling me to have it taken care of - simple micro surgery - done in the doctor's offices - no big deal. He had it done a few years ago at one of Ford Hospital's Satellite office in Detroit - a local. Cost was $500 a hand. So I thought I would surprise my brother and have it done - Dr. Ray King set up an appointment with Dr. Medlar's office and I went - before I saw him he had X-ray's taken (he has this SERVICE in his office). While waiting for him in his office the picture looked good to me - he came in and I showed him my hands and [he] looked at picture - I mentioned that the hands looked good to me and he said that trigger fingers would not show up on X-ray as the problem is in the tendons - I NEGLECTED AT THAT POINT TO ASK HIM WHY HE HAD ORDERED PICTURES if it would not show up. He said my hands showed a little arthritis. He gave me options and suggested that we operate on the left hand (this was the worse one and hung up the most) and give a shot of cortisone to the right hand.

They set up and made arrangements to meet me at the hospital on that Wednesday last week - after arrival at the hospital at the allotted time and day, I was registered as a day-patient and NECESSARY INSURANCE INFO taken. Immediately I was sent to the SEVENTH FLOOR. Now keep in mind this is a local - my fingers only - I KNEW I WAS IN TROUBLE WHEN the nurse at the 7th floor station said "REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES EXCEPT YOUR UNDERPANTS AND PUT ON THE GOWN THAT IS ON YOUR *BED*. Also, remove all your jewelry - ear rings, necklace. YOU ARE GOING INTO THE OPERATING ROOM AND YOU ARE DIRTY."

I undressed and waited - I had to wait for TRANSPORT - the gurney arrived and they had to PLACE me on it as I was not allowed to climb into it - I was then wheeled down to the holding room where JACK and Maryann were waiting for me. Jack

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- **Breadwinner 18 years**
- **Retired Nurse Consultant, DSHS**
- **Mother of five, grandmother of six**

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Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the WIP Editorial Board and are solely those of the authors.

Keep those letters and cards coming. Correspondence and articles are always welcome. If possible submit articles on disk (WordPerfect). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions; so for editing purposes please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works in Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

MUSIC in the PARK

All concerts in Sylvester Park in the heart of downtown Olympia

Friday Noon Concerts (Capital Theater/Rainstage)
August 7 Back Porch Blues Blues
August 14 The Laura Love Band World Beat
August 21 Caravan -- Bluegrass
August 28 Dennis Hastings Jazz Rollercoaster - Jazz

Wednesday Evenings 7pm (WA Center/Rainstage)
August 12 Sid Potter's Swing Society - Jazz/Swing
August 26 Citizen's Band & The Righteous Mothers - Folk

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stuck me and placed a tube in my arm for intravenous feeding.... I told him it stung afterwards but transport came again and started me down to the OR - I again said 'THIS HURTS WORSE NOW THAN WHEN YOU STUCK ME." They looked (Jack and Maryann) and dashed me back into the Holding Room where they took that one out and inserted me again with another tube and started the drip again.

In the meantime Dr. Medlar had come down from the OR to find out what was holding things up. After being introduced to the two OR nurses (waiting with the doctor in OR for my arrival) they immediately place a THING on my leg and three THINGS on my chest, neck and back and then they PLUG me into the heart monitor. The nurse then proceeded to cleanse my arm - two scrubbings with yellow and red chemical dye with an additional cold spray. The left arm was then held in the clean OR air and a full length heavy cotton sock was placed at the fingertips and rolled down to my armpit. Then my arm was slipped through an accordian pleated covering - with the covering - covering my HEAD - I could not see the operating... I asked how he was going to see through the sock - soon found out he CUT A LARGE HOLE in the NEW cotton sock at the place of entry.

He completed the deadening and surgery started - it took about a 1/2 hour of scraping and cutting out the stuff on the tendon and then another nurse stitched it up, I guess it was her as I COULD NOT SEE. The doctor finished that side and we proceed to the right hand - Nurse Maryann was running out of room IN THE OR as was necessary to sterilize this hand too - however, the doctor said it was not necessary to wash it three times. By this time I MENTIONED!!! that I would not have had this done if I had asked more questions of the hospital procedure.

Finally, I got out of the OR and back into the holding tank - Jack apologized again for the bad shot he gave me - by this time I knew his last name and also the name of his lawyer. I was told in the holding tank that they had sent word out to transport and they would return me to my room.

NOW DO WE WONDER ABOUT THE COST OF HEALTH INSURANCE?????

I was in personal contact with TWELVE (12) hospital employees (including my luncheon tray lady) plus the doctor during my four hour hospital visit.

Erma Jean King lives in Jackson, MI, the nation's most livable city.

A is for Anarchy, B is for Band, C is for Citizens

WIP News Service

"We call our music 'anarcoustic' which doesn't mean anything to anyone else but us", said Harry Levine of Olympia's well-known Citizens Band. "We made the word up. It's primarily acoustic music and we are primarily anarchists."

"We are a political band. We play music to embrace, support, and publicize our politics. There are clearly two of us who are anarchists and the others of us have anarchist leanings. We affiliate pretty much with what you would call the basic radical slate, environmental, social justice issues, prison issues, sexual preference issues, anything really. You're going to find us coming up with views generally left of most people."

Curious as to how such a radical group would gain access to a city's park music series, Harry was asked how this was possible.

Citizens Band plays lots of different styles: blues to bluegrass to folk/rock . "It's highly vocal, we care more about the words than anything. It's lots of harmony and stuff . . ."

"Actually, we asked ourselves the same question. We don't go out and try to sell ourselves. Usually people come to us which was what the case with Music in the Dark. We think it's great. They are presenting a wide range of views and music. Our music is . . . humorous, political in nature, but it's good music and a good time. So I assume they heard our tapes and they liked us. So they said sure we'll give that a try too.

"We always argue that all music, anything that anyone does is political. If you raise an American flag and sing the national anthem before a baseball game, that's political, that's just the regular form of politics. We do what we do. [And] it's fun to play to the non-converted. . . We played Harbor Days and it's interesting because mainstream America does not share our views on, for instance, religion. Sometimes we sing some songs that are funny but they also confront the dominant religious values system. Occasionally people are offended.

"We even played for the Democratic Party, we're not purists you know. They were doing some big picnic and they were supporting probably some forestry bill or something we were in favor of, years ago."

When asked if they were paid, Harry Levine responded, "Mmmm, . . . no."

Photo by Kitty Koppelman

You'll get another chance to hear this conscience-prodding, fun-loving group August 26th with the Righteous Mothers at 7 pm, Sylvester Park in the Music in the Park/Music in the Dark series.

Citizens Band Discography

Pocket Full of Rocks ('86)
Smash the State and Have a Nice Day ("91)

The Citizens Band can be contacted at 1103 W 6th, Olympia, WA 98502 or (206) 357-8323 for progressive/radical movement support performances. Monetary compensation is negotiable. (They are a political band!)

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Along The Color Line

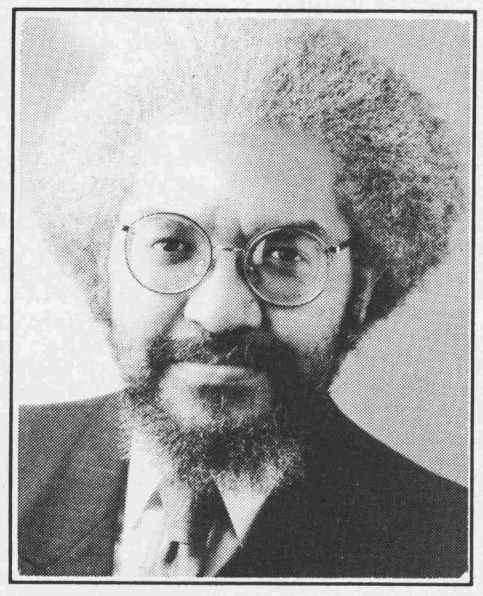
The Breakdown of American Politics

Dr. Manning Marable

In recent weeks, little Danny Quayle has been roaming the country, attacking what he calls the "cultural elite." Television programs like Murphy Brown erode public morality, the Vice President solemnly declares. Quayle praises the Los Angeles police department and condemns the "rioters" who took to the streets against police brutality. Why are Quayle and Bush deliberately polarizing the electorate?

The provocative behavior of the Republican candidates, their overt appeals to the Far Right, can be explained as part of the general breakdown of our political system. The sudden emergence of Ross Perot as an independent candidate, and even Bill Clinton's selection of another Southern centrist Democrat, Tennessee Senator Al Gore, as his running mate, are also part of the collapse of traditional politics.

Since the late 1960s, Democrats and Republicans have had a marriage of convenience. Conservatives usually controlled the federal executive and court system, and Democrats usually ran the Congress and state legislatures. The external "threat" of world Communism and a commitment to the political economy of militarism (what some refer to as the "permanent war economy" or "military Keynesianism") cemented the two major parties together for all practical purposes. There was no fundamental difference on economic, fiscal or foreign policies, for example, between Nixon and Kennedy in 1960, for example, or Carter and Ford in 1976. But with the breakdown of the Cold War, the external pressure which forged the bipartisan consensus domestically began to evaporate. The space for new challenges to the bipartisan coalition form of government was greatly increased, leading to challenges from the left, right and center. Such challenges were prefigured twelve years ago by the liberal campaign of Edward Kennedy against Carter in the 1980 Democratic presidential primaries, and by Republican moderate John Anderson's independent race in the general election. The Jackson assault of the Rainbow Coalition in 1984 and 1988 also eroded the connection of the Democratic Party with the Republicans, by pushing a progressive agenda. Finally, in 1992, the fragmentation erupted on the far right, as conservative journalist Patrick Buchanan ran a largely symbolic campaign against incumbent President George Bush in the Republican primaries. More effective was the challenge by eccentric billionaire Ross Perot, who launched an independent campaign for the presidency. Despite Perot's abrupt withdrawal from the race last month, these independent-style challenges indicate a "crisis of legitimacy", when people question whether the entire electoral process is relevant to their daily lives. The rationales for both major parties seem to most Americans ineffectual and anachronistic.



. . . both the Americans and Russians "lost" the Cold War. . . Trillions of dollars . . . spent on weapons should have been allocated toward hospitals, highways, public transportation, upgrading old factories, and improving public education.

The end of the superpower struggle with the Soviet Union revealed the massive destructiveness created by four decades of militarism. Much has been written about the defeat of Communism, but in truth, both the Americans and Russians "lost" the Cold War. The real winners were Japan and Germany. Trillions of dollars which were spent on weapons should have been allocated toward hospitals, highways, public transportation, upgrading old factories, and improving public education. The real incomes of American workers below the age of thirty have dropped one-third in the past twenty years.

Both major parties have manipulated the "Communist Menace" to defect criticism or scrutiny from their shabby records at home. This is especially true for conservatives like Quayle and Bush. So instead of talking about real issues, the Republicans are now forced to attack new political "villains" to replace the Communists. That's why the Republicans are attacking "political correctness", "multicultural education", "affirmative action", abortion rights, and anything undermining so-called "family values'.

In this new post-Cold War environment, Bush and Quayle are solidifying their base among the cultural conservatives, anti-abortion rights extremists, and big corporations. Clinton and Gore are trying to take back the South from the Republican Party, and are making overt appeals to white, suburban middle class voters who had backed Reagan in the 1980s. Both Republicans and Democrats are scrambling after Perot's disillusioned, embittered volunteers. But no one seems to be talking to African-Americans, Latinos, the unemployed, the homeless and most union members.

Ultimately, unless blacks and other progressives develop a strong and independent political organization which can really challenge the policies of both parties, African-Americans' interests will continue to be ignored. The collapse of the American electoral system today forces us to reexamine everything we know about politics.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of Political Science and History, University of Colorado.

Thurston County Rainbow Coalition

General Membership Meeting/ Potluck

August 8th, 12:30 pm

Priest Point Park

I AGREE WITH THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

A grassroots organization that works for the people the two political parties frequently ignore: peace activists, people of color, the differently-abled, union members, women, environmentalists, gays and lesbians, the homeless, the working poor, and other community people.

An organization that supports and encourages progressive electoral candidates. An organization that networks and works with others who have the same goals.

Join the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition and get involved.

Yes, I'm interested in joining the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition

❑ Enclosed is: $25; $10 low-income.

❑ Yes, I want to be involved in Rainbow activities. Give me a call.

(name) _____

(address) _____

(city) _____ (state) _____ (zip) _____

(work phone) _____ (home phone) _____

(issues of interest):

Send to: Thurston County Rainbow Coalition, P.O. Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507. For information call 459-3625 or 456-4773.

COLUMBUS WAS MORE A BUTCHER THAN A DISCOVERER
WITHIN 2 YEARS OF HIS ARRIVAL IN HAITI ONE-HALF OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WERE KILLED OR KILLED THEMSELVES

Full Employment

Marvin Saillard

If everyone who is willing and able to work had a job that met her or his needs, we would have full employment. We have a system of taxation that prevents full employment. When we tax labor and capital by any means, prices of goods go up, sales go down, production goes down, and employment goes down. Taxation of labor and capital creates an economic recession because it creates unemployment. All of the products produced by the economy cannot be purchased by the people who make up the economy.

Since we are always taxing labor and capital in some form or other, we are always contending with an economy in recession. A receding economy always results in a demand for government programs to help the victims of the economy. These demands result in more taxation of labor and capital. Up go prices, down go sales and production and employment, and the economy recedes into a depression which is only delayed by government manipulation of the economy.

Rather than encourage job creation by taxing underdeveloped valuable land into its highest and best use, government increases unemployment by increasing taxes on labor and capital thereby destroying the ability of private enterprise to produce the things we need, and the ability to create jobs.

The government tries to make people believe the government is helping the economy by manipulating the interest rates and the amount of currency in circulation. The level of the federal deficit, and the cost of the S&L scandals, indicate how much help they have been.

A high tax on land values encourages the highest and best use of valuable land and encourages the creation of jobs. A high tax rate on buildings and improvements discourages construction by raising prices on buildings and improvements. This results in fewer jobs. Competition for jobs forces down wages.

The State Constitution requires that the property tax be levied at the same rate on land as it is on buildings and improvements. This allows the property taxes to be high enough to discourage the construction of buildings and improvements and the creation of jobs, but too low to encourage the highest and best use of valuable land and job creation. Landowners are encouraged by our property tax system to hold valuable locations in underdeveloped use while waiting for higher land prices.

This artificial scarcity of valuable land on the real estate market forces up the price of land. The resulting land-price inflation finally rewards the landowner with an unearned profit while making land too expensive for affordable housing for wage earners. Underdeveloped use of valuable land held for speculation prevents the use of the land to create the jobs that our economy needs.

If we were to amend the State Constitution to allow a two-rate property tax, we could reduce or eliminate the tax rate on buildings and improvements to lower their prices, and to encourage the creation of construction jobs. This would also increase production in businesses which serve the construction trades, and would further boost employment in the community.

A two-rate property tax would enable us to take away the special advantage of landowners to collect an unearned income from the community-created rental-value of land. Land has a market rental-value because of the presence and activity and taxes of all of the people in the community plus the presence of any valuable natural resources.

Any of the land-rent that is not collected by the community government to finance its operating expenditures and its community services becomes an unearned profit to landowners. This unearned profit allows landowners to accumulate products (capital and wealth)

without producing anything. This gives landowners a monopoly in land and a monopoly in capital. It then becomes possible for them to exploit labor which owns little or no land or capital. Their monopoly of land and capital makes labor compete for jobs, and drives down wages and interest.

If the market rental-value of all land were collected by the community government as public revenue, there could be no land speculation, no land-price inflation, and no valuable land being under-utilized. Optimum use of all valuable land would maximize the number of jobs available in the community. Jobs competing for workers would force up wages and interest. A healthy economy would reduce the need for government financed economic programs, and there would be little or no need to tax anything other than the rental-value of land.

In the absence of land and capital monopoly all of the earnings of labor and capital would be earned income, and would not be subject to taxation. All of the rental-value of land collected by landowners represents unearned income, and should be collected as public revenue to pay for the operation of government and for the community services it provides to help maintain the use-value of land in the community.

When no one receives an unearned income from the value of land in the community, everyone is assured of an equal right to access to land which is the true source of employment for all people. When no one receives an unearned income from the economy, everyone who is willing and able to work can have an earned income from the economy. This is economic justice. This is the free enterprise system which we have talked much about but have never had. This is full employment. Yours for taxing unearned wealth.

Marvin is a member of the Washington State Georgist Association, Hamlet Hilpert, President, 206-736-3639, 995 State Hwy 507, Centralia, WA 98531. They are are a chapter of Common Ground - USA, 2000 Century Plaza, #238, Columbia, MD 21044, 410-740-1177

A high tax on land values encourages the highest and best use of valuable land and encourages the creation of jobs.

Thoughts Along the Way
by George Riffero

On passing through I'd
like to say,
I've had some struggles
on the way,
But most of all I've
learned by giving, That
life is more and more
worth living.

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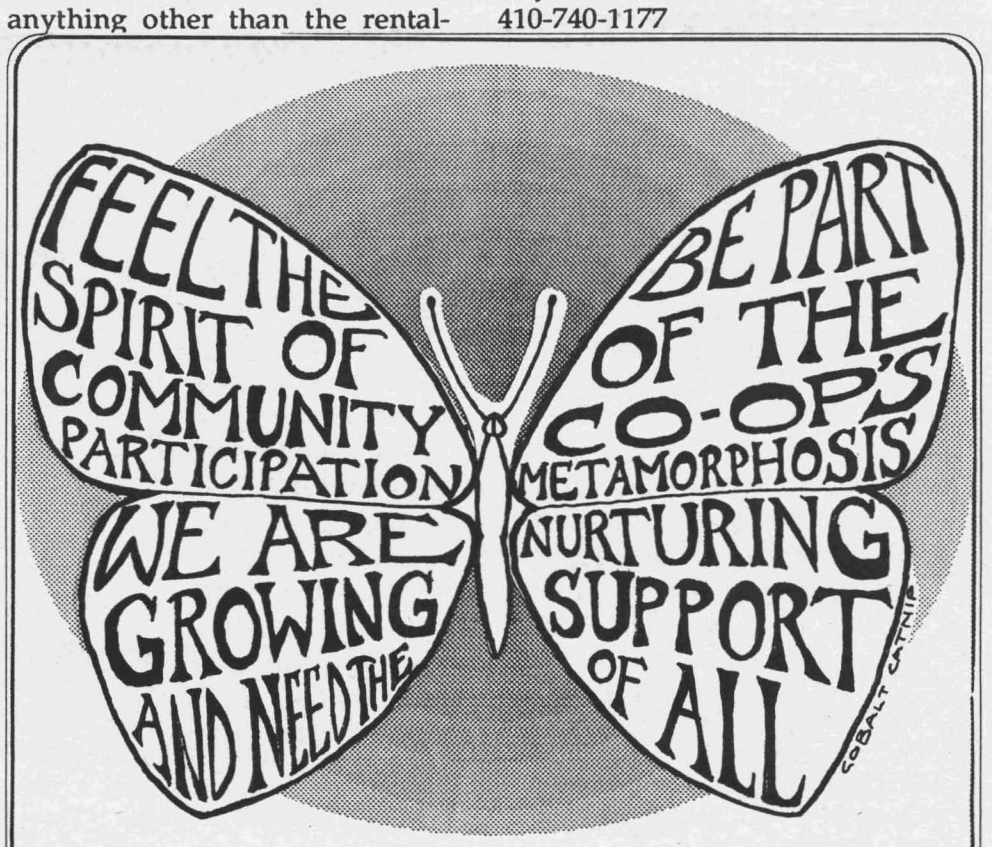
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WE ARE GROWING AND NEED THE
BE PART OF THE CO-OP'S METAMORPHOSIS
NURTURING SUPPORT OF ALL

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Olympia, WA 98502
754-7666

Volunteers recieve a 25% discount on purchases

Labor, Media and Politics

Paul Ortiz

"We're locked out," said my friend Kathy, a longtime Seattle railroad worker, in response to my call about the railroad strike Thursday, June 25th. "But the Associated Press says you are all out on strike," I replied incredulously.

"That is a lie," Kathy said. "Only one union is on strike now. Our union (United Transportation Union), has had no strike vote, no picket line, no word from the leadership-nothing. The railroads decided when the machinist's local went out to shut down the whole network."

The shrill headlines from the A.P. and Gannet thus misled the public: "Strike Shuts Down Economy," "Rail Strike Prompts G.M. Closures," and "Waves from Rail Strike Felt Across Country." In truth, the great majority of railroad workers, many like Kathy without a contract for 4 years, were unilaterally locked out by the Association of American Railroads.

The AAR acted with the arrogance of a corporation that knows that the corporate media's labor coverage will dupe the public, quote the "experts" (not union members or their families) and incite public outrage against the remaining remnants of organized labor. This sad point was driven home in the July 16th Olympian that carried an A.P. story titled "Rail shutdown helps stall industry output." "Expert" economist John M. Albertine stated that "While the rail strike put downward pressure on production in June, the economy was not strong enough to compensate." Rail "strike" indeed. Media vultures blame the victims every time.

Syndicated columnist James Kilpatrick similarly misrepresented the labor movement recently when he stated that "The Workplace Fairness Act [that bans the permanent replacement of strikers] would have imposed radical change upon rules that have governed strikes for more than 50 years." Career segregationist Kilpatrick willfully ignores the fact that many U.S. corporations have already changed the "rules": plant closures, outsourcing or moving to Mexico, locking fire exits, leveraged buyouts, "at will" terms of employment.

The Workplace Fairness Act is now dead in congress and no matter who is elected, it will stay dead. The Reagan Revolution against worker's rights trickled down to the Democrats and the "moderate" wing of the Demo power machine, the Democratic Leadership Council. This group includes Bruce Babbitt, who sent tanks and soldiers to smash the picket lines of the Arizona miners in 1982, Paul "jobs at any cost" Tsongas, and "right to work" Bill Clinton. It is to the eternal credit of the men and women of Illinois and Michigan that they voted with their hearts and minds to halt the nuclear-powered campaign of Tsongas, but the Democratic Convention power brokers still gave Tsongas a hero's welcome.

Leaders from the Democratic party seem to feel that the Bill of Rights stops at the workplace entrance. In fact, one Democratic precinct captain in this state, a restaurant owner, recently fired a waitress on hearsay charges that she forgot to ask a customer about the quality of the food served. Is this what middle-class Demos mean by "people first" values?

The failure of the Democrats to courageously defend worker's rights (minus Jesse Jackson who is shamefully held outside of the power levers of the party) intersects with the corporate offensive against labor and media misrepresentation of worker issues. The results are the devastating decline of working conditions (pesticide poisoning, locked fire exits, carpal tunnel syndrome, etc.) wages, and job security in the U.S. The Census Bureau notes that 18 percent of full time workers now earn less than $12,195 a year. If these workers try to organize to improve their work lives they are fired or permanently replaced.

Tens of Millions of workers will send a clear message of desperation to the two political parties this November by not voting. We see no opposition party daring to state that human dignity is just as important as the free market, and we are sick of voting for the lesser of two evils. We need our own party.

Paul Ortiz hosts Pathways To Justice, *a Labor and Social Issues Radio Program, Thursdays 1-3:30 pm on KAOS 89.3 FM.*

Leaders from the Democratic party seem to feel that the Bill of Rights stops at the workplace entrance...one Democratic precinct captain in this state, a restaurant owner, recently fired a waitress on hearsay charges that she forgot to ask a customer about the quality of the food served.

A SONG ABOUT BOYCOTTS

I read in the paper the other day that amerika wanted to boycott libya
for not turning over two suspected terrorists accused of bombing an airliner
and scattering hundreds of bodies over the quiet landscape of scotland
amerika says that these men should pay for their deeds

If this is the policy that amerika is presently embracing,
then i suggest that we open up the past case abuses of Indigenous peoples
beginning with the one known as cristobolo but any ancestor will do
after all, those folks are all the same anyway aren't they
this man also known as columbus scattered thousands of Caribs and
Arawaks along their shores, so during the upcoming olympics we should
boycott the country that sent this madman to the shores of Turtle Island

Next we will hold responsible the descendants of the ones known as pilgrims
the people who left an oppressive lifestyle behind in england
and in turn shared their abusive cycle with the Narragansets while looking
for food and shelter, killing The People along the way and robbing graves
of food that was buried with The People for their journey to the next world

Then there's the seventh calvary remember the slaughter at Wounded Knee,
remember how they butchered The People because of the Ghost Dance, the
soldiers just could not understand that this dance would not harm their
white god, amerika left The People scattered along the plains of the Dakotas
amerika's ancestors should be held responsible, let's begin the boycott now

We will also be contacting amerika about those blankets that the army
dropped off in the northwest last century and never apologized for
smallpox diseased warmth all the way from the great white father
amerika practiced systematic genocide but no one boycotted them
i suppose the recipients of this genocide never really had the opportunity
to make a diplomatic response to their abusers, their voices silenced
but now amerika the supreme super power of the world (or so they think)
is saying: "LET EVERYONE BOYCOTT LIBYA, THEY ARE EVIL"
amerika would like to have their hands on those two Libyans so they can
send the world a message that they have the power to subjugate
amerika, you should remember your history before you allow your
judgements to be cast upon Abdel Basset Ali Se Megrahi, Lamen Khalifa
Fhimah, and the people of Libya. WAKE UP AMERIKA. . . .

G.W. Galbreath is an Evergreen Alumnist.

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Ross Perot and The Democrats

Jerome Johnson

Well, well, well. There's nothing like a presidential election year, is there?

When Slick Willie asked Senator Al Gore (D-TN) to be his running mate, I groaned in disgust. Now we have an all-white, all-male, all-wealthy, all-Christian, all-straight, all-able, all-Southern ticket that we're told is all-American, and represents the majority of people of this country and especially the Democrats. The same party that hypocritically says it stands for the powerless, the disenfranchised, the minorities, women, workers, gays/lesbians, the disabled, the poor--nominated a ticket that doesn't reflect the reality of 1992 America...or does it?

The Democrats think that the way to win this election is be Republican in everything but name. That's why they stress how tough on crime (blacks, Latinos and the poor) they'll be, endorsing the death penalty. That's why they'll raise taxes and cut spending. That's why they've paid only lip service to traditional Democratic constituencies and their concerns. In the Democrats' reality, they have to play to "middle America" and "the middle class" to win. Once they win, well, then maybe they'll be more progressive--but then, there's the '96 campaign to consider. Slick Willie may not be the best of choices, but he's better (somewhat) than King George, so we've stuck with him--and the Democrats know it.

Yes, this smug arrogance is infuriating--all the more so because we *are* stuck with it, not only the candidate but the system. I'm angry with DNC Chairman Ron Brown because he kowtowed to the Clinton campaign too much--as shown by the shabby way Jerry Brown was treated. Jerry got his chance to speak--after his supporters rightly demanded it--but they shouldn't have had to. Jerry Brown delivered 4 million votes and had 600 delegates. He deserved more respect. Ron Brown should have stood up to the Clinton campaign and reminded everyone that he is supposed to make sure that *all* Democrats are celebrated at the convention, rather than just being the M.C. at Slick Willie's ' coronation.

Yes, this smug arrogance is infuriating--all the more so because we **are** *stuck with it, not only the candidate but the system.*

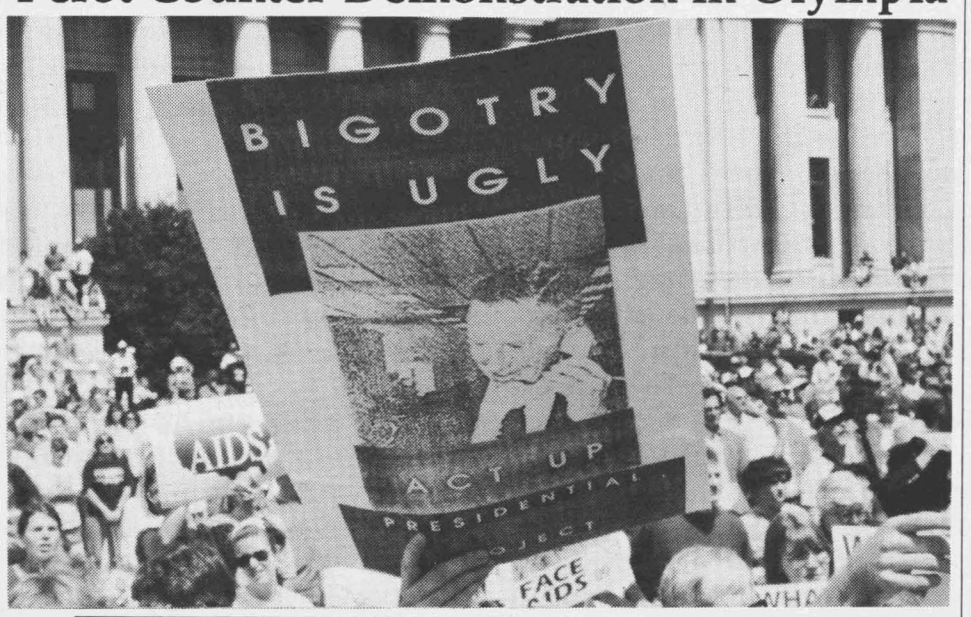
Ross Perot's decision not to run was something I expected, but not so soon. I figured he'd wait until after the Republican convention, thereby giving King George a bigger post-convention boost. Still, I'm glad to see him gone. One openly racist, homophobic anti-semite in this race is enough for me. And I don't for a minute believe Ross' lame excuse that his run would be "disruptive" for the country--hell. he knew that damned well last April, and relished it. I don't know why Ross quit--maybe the NAACP scared him away, or the media. I'll probably never know the real reason...but I'm glad he's gone. I hope he stays gone. I pray he never gets the chance to screw over America the way he screwed his volunteers over.

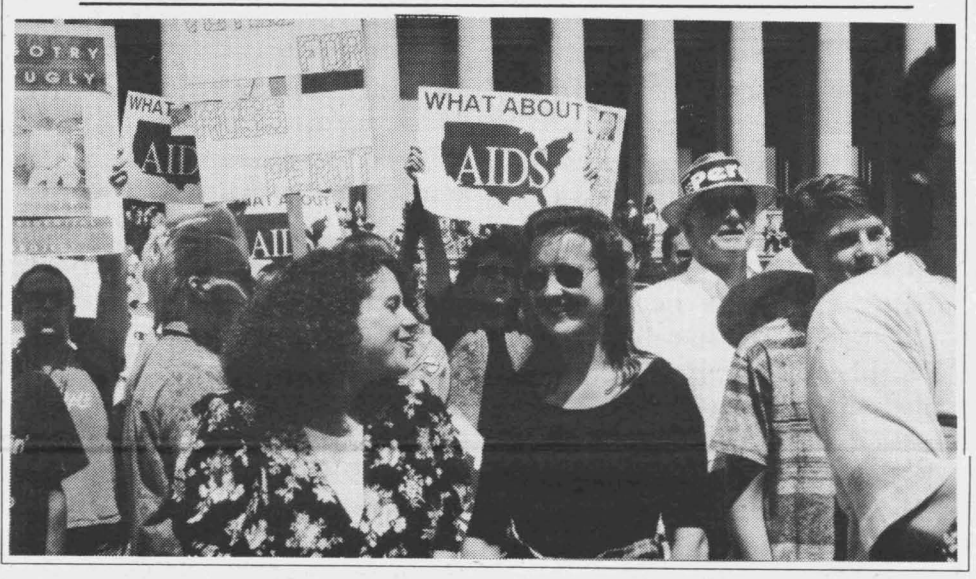
I don't know who Ross' supporters will vote for. I talked to one woman who said she'd vote for him anyway as a protest. Unlike most Perotians, she is a liberal Democrat. Since most Perotians are white males, aged 38-49, make less than $30,000 a year, have no college education, have a taste for violence and vote Republican, they'll probably support King George in November.

As I write this, the news is full of speculation that further military action against Iraq may be "necessary" so that U.N. inspectors can continue their work. It would be very interesting--not to mention ironic--if King George lost his job, and Saddam Hussein kept his.

Jerome Johnson is the host of Up Front, Wednesdays at 1 pm on KAOS.

Perot Counter-Demonstration in Olympia





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U.S. Economy

Continued Stagnation, Growing Inequality

Peter Bohmer

Presented at the Fourth Conference of Cuban and North American Philosophers in Havana, Cuba, May 29, 1992

The economic and political collapse of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe has its economic counterpart in the stagnation and instability of the U.S. and the wealthier capitalist economies, and the economic crisis of Africa, Latin America and South Asia that is killing millions of people and increasing the suffering of many more. Although poverty and the inequality of income and wealth are growing in the U.S. as are despair, dissatisfaction and anger, there is little organized movement towards a more equal and humane system. Instead capitalism as a superior system and the end of history are proclaimed, and the free market is put forward as the solution to all problems. There are few bold, alternate analyses and visions and they do not get a public hearing.

The current economic recession, as officially defined, which began in the United States in July, 1990 is possibly over as production and consumption have been rising slowly in 1992. The so-called recovery, if it has begun, is weak and is unlikely to substantially raise employment or wages. More importantly, the longer run and more significant structural crisis (‡) as revealed in the high rates of unemployment and underemployment, the stagnation of productive investment and productivity, the financial instability of the banks and the high levels of corporate and consumer debt continues as does the possibility of a depression. The continuing depression of South-Central Los Angeles, Gary, Indiana and Youngstown, Ohio and many parts of the rural U.S. will not end with the projected recovery. The economic depression of the African-American, Latina/Latino and Native American communities has persisted for the entire history of the United States. So have the poverty level earnings of the majority of women.

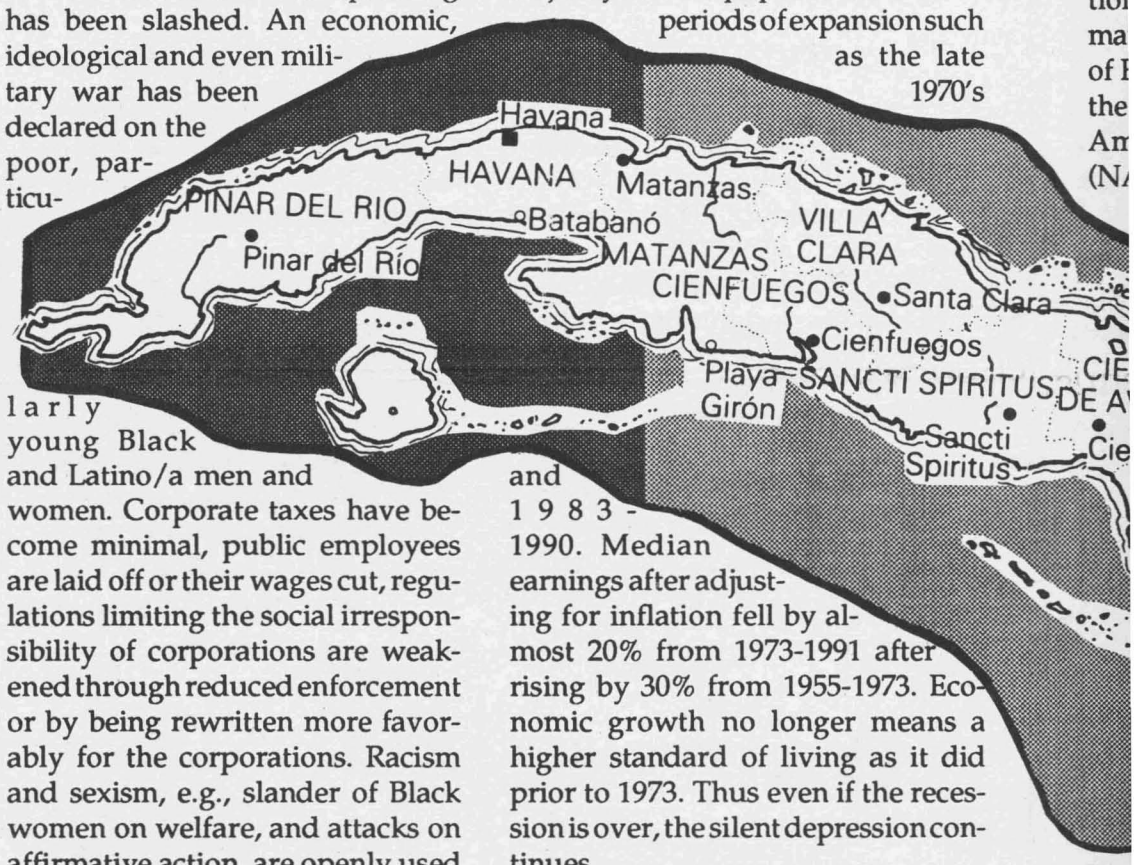
To understand the current economy, let me sketch the expansion and stagnation of U.S. capitalism over the last 50 years. A Social Structure of Accumulation (‡‡) conducive to high profitability and the accumulation of capital was consolidated in the years immediately after World War II. It was based on the United States being the dominant world power: economically, politically and militarily; together with the institutional arrangements, what various political economist have called the Accord, the non-formal deal between corporate capital, the state and organized labor as junior partner. Key to its functioning was the system of fixed-exchange rates based on the dollar known as Bretton-Woods, the warfare-welfare state, anti-communist ideology and foreign policy, and a business unionism that accepted corporate domination in return for slowly rising wages and benefits for its members who were predominantly male. The Accord provided a stable environment for capital expansion. Output, productivity and investment grew, profit rates were substantially higher than the present.

The so-called American Century was however short lived. By the late 1960's, profits became squeezed by international and domestic social forces. The heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people weakened U.S. economic dominance. While the U.S. was fighting Vietnam, productivity in Western Europe and Japan grew rapidly and they made increasing inroads into domestic U.S. and U.S. export markets. Also spurred by high U.S. demand, third world industrial production grew rapidly in a number of countries including South Korea, Taiwan, Brazil and Mexico. Profits were also reduced by the temporary increase of the prices of many raw materials exported from the third world. At home, the struggles waged by the Civil Rights and Black Liberation movements and the Chicano, Anti-Vietnam war, Women's and Environmental and other movements, and the interrelated reduction in the unemployment rate led to growing worker militancy and higher wages, and increased social spending. The existing social structure of accumulation no longer yielding the profit rates corporations were accustomed to. The Accord was forced open to include more African-Americans and women, overall income became somewhat more equally distributed. Profits and capitalist control over society was also reduced by some restrictions being placed on corporate capital's power to pillage the environment. Legislation was also passed in support of worker demands for better safety and health conditions at the workplace.

Since the mid 1970's, corporations have changed the rules of the game. The Accord was terminated by corporate America. There has been a planned corporate offensive against labor with organized labor still playing by the old rules. The tame business unionism of the AFL-CIO is no longer accepted by most of corporate America, union membership has fallen from 1/3 of the labor force in 1955 to 1/2 of that today and is still declining. Multinational corporations increasingly contract out production to non-union low wage firms outside the U.S. or inside that provide few or no benefits to workforces that are disproportionately immigrants, people of color and women. Givebacks in markets, billions have been made by a few. The doubling of military spending in the 1980's and the huge expansion of government and consumer debt fueled the expansion of output and employment from 1983 to 1990. Income inequality grew as the number of decent paying jobs in manufacturing and social services declined. By 1990, 1% of the population or 2 and 1/2 million people earned more income than the poorest 40% or 100 million people. Since the early 1970's income has grown more unequal among whites, it has grown even more unequal among African-Americans.

The U.S. rulers won the Gulf war but this does little to restore economic dominance or even global competitiveness for U.S. corporations.

wages and benefits are demanded even if firms are making good profits. There is increased use of part-time and temporary workers who are paid lower wages than the permanent workers. Social spending has been slashed. An economic, ideological and even military war has been declared on the poor, particularly young Black and Latino/a men and women. Corporate taxes have become minimal, public employees are laid off or their wages cut, regulations limiting the social irresponsibility of corporations are weakened through reduced enforcement or by being rewritten more favorably for the corporations. Racism and sexism, e.g., slander of Black women on welfare, and attacks on affirmative action, are openly used to gain white support for this reactionary agenda.



Nevertheless, corporate profitability has not been restored to the levels of the 1950's and 1960's nor has productivity growth. The new austerity has not even worked on its own terms. No new and successful social structure of accumulation has replaced the Accord. The U.S. economy is situated in a global economy marked by excess capacity given the limited effective demand, thereby reducing profitability and investment. Although labor costs in the United States have been rising more slowly than prices and have fallen in relation to major U.S. international competitors, corporate profitability is below its historical average.

Of course, a small minority has grown even wealthier, the top 1/2 of 1% of the population increased their share of total U.S. wealth in the 1980's from 23 to 29%. Through buying and selling of corporations, speculation in currencies, commodities, real estate, the stock and bond and 1983-1990. Median earnings after adjusting for inflation fell by almost 20% from 1973-1991 after rising by 30% from 1955-1973. Economic growth no longer means a higher standard of living as it did prior to 1973. Thus even if the recession is over, the silent depression continues.

What persists today, whether or not the recession has ended, is what economist Wallace Peterson calls the silent depression, the decline in the quality of life and earnings of the majority of the population even in periods of expansion such as the late 1970's

Let me now move to recent and ongoing efforts by the U.S. elites to restore world economic and political dominance and profitability, what President Bush and Secretary of State Baker call "The New World Order". When we strip away the rhetoric, the military aspect of the New World Order is the principle that the U.S. has the right to and the means to organize joint military interventions under U.S. leadership, e.g., Iraq; or unilaterally, if need be. The aim of this aggression is to protect U.S. interests and maintain stability as defined by the U.S., and secondly, to further global capitalism. The war against Iraq was in part a demonstration of the willingness to use that power, the continued blockade is the continued application of that power, the ongoing death and suffering of the Iraqi people is necessary or irrelevant to these policy makers.

The U.S. rulers won the Gulf war but this does little to restore economic dominance or even global competitiveness for U.S. corporations. U.S. arms makers will sell more weapons

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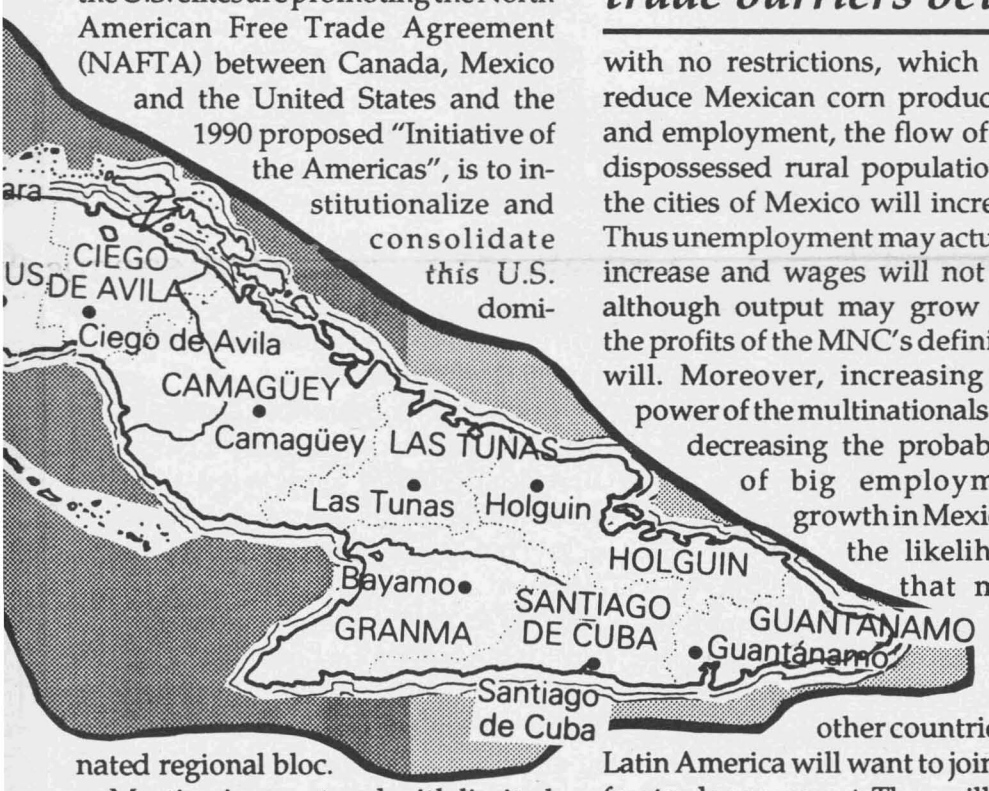
in the Middle East, Bechtel will get billions of dollars of new contracts in Kuwait, and the U.S. will have more control over the price of oil and its supply. However, neither the war nor the continued emphasis and spending for military superiority will repair the physical infrastructure of this country—the transportation system, schools, water systems—much less improve the health and education of the labor force, nor stop the capital flight of industry from major cities and the interrelated devastation of African-American, Latino and low income urban communities. Will it lead to more research and development on improving the quality of products for civilian use or developing new products? Will the U.S. being global cop make Dupont or IBM more able to sell their products at home or abroad or for Chrysler to produce better cars at lower cost? The answer is NO! Military aggression does not lead in the current global economy to economic development. Another aim of U.S. strategy is to create a regional economic bloc in the Americas dominated by U.S. multinational corporations that will outcompete the German and Japanese dominated blocs of Europe and Asia. The reason why the U.S. elites are promoting the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between Canada, Mexico and the United States and the 1990 proposed "Initiative of the Americas", is to institutionalize and consolidate this U.S. dominated regional bloc.



Meeting in secret and with limited public awareness, negotiators of Mexico, Canada and the U.S. are putting the finishing touches on NAFTA. In the U.S., it will then be presented to Congress which will not have the right to amend it, only to accept or reject it. NAFTA is likely to be passed as the leadership and presidential candidates of the Democrats and Republican parties both support it.

NAFTA will facilitate the ability of U.S. dominated multinational corporations to gain full access to the resources, including the labor, of all of the Americas from Canada in the North to Argentina and Chile in the South to produce goods made by U.S. dominated corporations to sell in the Americas and on the world global market. These agreements will also further enrich U.S. financial institutions by giving them advantages over those from Europe and Japan in organizing and profiting from the increased financial flows. It will also provide increased opportunities for the giant advertising and accounting firms and other business services to profit from their operations throughout the continent.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), is about far more than reducing trade barriers between countries. Its objective is to further the unrestricted and unregulated movement of U.S. capital from Canada to Mexico and eventually to all of the Americas. It gives multinational capital the right to produce wherever costs are the lowest, to make and keep the highest profits, to pay the least taxes and lowest wages with minimal environmental restrictions.

Given the high rates of underemployment and unemployment in Mexico, the increased movement of manufacturing to Mexico is unlikely to significantly raise wages there. Moreover, if as seems likely its neo-liberal President Salinas is successful in destroying the ejido system which gave some protection to the peasant population and, in addition, the U.S. through NAFTA can export corn to Mexico with no restrictions, which will reduce Mexican corn production and employment, the flow of this dispossessed rural population to the cities of Mexico will increase. Thus unemployment may actually increase and wages will not rise although output may grow and the profits of the MNC's definitely will. Moreover, increasing the power of the multinationals and decreasing the probability of big employment growth in Mexico is the likelihood that most other countries in Latin America will want to join the free trade agreement. They will fear being excluded from the international trade and foreign investment flows among the member countries. This will spread foreign investment over more countries and will encourage capital flight from any country where wages are growing significantly. It will further reduce the bargaining power and wage increasing impact on the Latin American members of the agreement.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), is about far more than reducing trade barriers between countries.

The free trade agreement will further diminish the economic, political and cultural sovereignty and independence of nations. Restrictions on U.S. capital in other member countries, such as limiting U.S. corporate ownership of foreign resources or limiting their sending back of profits to the U.S., will be considered a violation of the agreement, a discrimination against foreign capital. NAFTA will benefit the rich and powerful within each nation and shift resources from the poorer nations of the Americas towards the wealth and profits of the multinationals. This economic integration of the Americas and the related treaties are the new Monroe doctrine, the late 20th century recolonization of the Americas.

The ongoing process of significant amounts of manufacturing that had been located in the United States relocating to Mexico, the Caribbean and other parts of Latin America will be speeded up by NAFTA and similar agreements. Banking and other business services will move more of their operations to Mexico and other parts of the Americas. The hemorrhaging of manufacturing jobs out of urban centers in the U.S. such as Detroit and Los Angeles will further increase poverty and unemployment, disproportionately affecting African-Americans and Latinos. NAFTA will reduce the ability of workers and social movements in the U.S. to fight the power of capital at the point of production. It will make more difficult getting legislation passed and enforced which curbs environmental and worker abuse. The threat of capital flight will loom even larger. Democracy will be further undermined as political power will be even more blatantly beyond citizen control, at guarded corporate headquarters.

The economic interests of most people in the United States will diverge even more from those of the managers and consultants of the global corporations with their bloated salaries. What is good for General Motors is not good for us. NAFTA will increase the profitability of U.S. corporations, make them more globally competitive, and may raise the Gross National Product (GNP) but more importantly it will further the trend towards fewer and fewer jobs paying a livable wage.

An opportunity that arises from the increased globalization of capital is that it provides an opening for solidarity and cooperation among working people against capital that crosses national borders. Internationalism is necessary in order to fight for a levelling up to a livable wage and to a healthy environment for working people in all countries rather than a levelling down to the lowest wages. Communication and forging networks of solidarity has begun among rank and file workers in Mexico, Canada and the U.S. who are working together against NAFTA.

I would like to close by briefly discussing two possible futures for the U.S. economy and their implications for social justice. I heard both of them by many people in their comments immediately following the rebellion in Los Angeles after the acquittal of the cops for the torture of Rodney King. The first, the fascist alternative, is a future where a small number of people have most of the wealth supported by a scared and shrinking middle class backed by a police state and militarized society which maintains more and more prisons, order, gross inequality and white supremacy, at home and abroad.

The second alternative begins with an analysis that the racism and poverty revealed so starkly in Los Angeles is an integral part of an economic and social system that needs fundamental change. The lesser of two evil politics, which some of us acquiesce to, will not stop the deeper and reactionary trends. Beyond analyzing and critiquing the existing injustices, we need to project a vision of a society that is equal and inclusionary, that respects the dignity of all people, and is environmentally sustainable, that is based on meeting human needs not greed, that is participatory economically and politically. This requires building grass roots movements working towards this evolving vision, participating in social movements and bold organizations which fight the exploitation of working people and against the oppression of women and people of color, and act in solidarity with those struggling for self-determination and social justice in the U.S. and in other countries. It means stopping the U.S. war against Cuba and it simultaneously means working for a radically different society in the U.S. This is our responsibility and challenge.

Power to the People.

Peter is a faculty member at The Evergreen State College and a member of the Olympia Movement for Peace and Justice.

Footnotes

‡ I hesitate to use the word crisis as there is no possibility of revolutionary change in the economics and politics of the United States in the next 10 to 15 years. Moreover, although the U.S. economy is very fragile, there is growth in output and productivity in certain sectors, e.g., airplane production, the computer industry. Nevertheless, I use the term crisis because no new successful social structure of accumulation (SSA) has replaced the post world War II SSA, and because of the social problems referred to throughout this paper. There is a crisis in much of the less developed world e.g., the 1980's was called the "lost decade" in Latin America. Although there is a global economic system, economic crisis can occur simultaneously in some nations and not in others as there are significant national differences, economic and political, and differing levels of autonomy among nations in the global economy.

‡‡ By Social Structure of Accumulation I mean the environment and institutional setting within which profit-making and accumulation takes place. It structures relations between capitalists and workers, among capitalists, between corporations and the state, and economic relations between nations. A given set of institutions may be conducive to rapid accumulation in one period but eventually become a fetter on profitability. See for example, D. Gordon, Edwards and Reich, Segmented Work, Divided Work (1982, Cambridge University Press).

Washington State's Chance

It's Time For A Change

Lee Wlazlak / Candidate

This article is written by a very biased author a person who believes that government should be operated by financially responsible individuals who will be accountable for their actions right or wrong. Over the years the Washington State legislators, misspending our dollars to enhance their positions, has awakened a very furious citizen. In recent past the following incidents come to mind: $28,000 in phone bills by the legislators; $400,00 carpet purchased outside the country; a 678 million dollar building approved in the same fiscal period that the state has a 900 million dollar short fall in revenues; and allowing ALL commercial banks in Washington State to be purchased and operated by out of state holding or management corporations. This continual lack of foresight and responsibility has made Washington State a bankers paradise.

To give you some idea of how our government has protected the public from spending too much on the legislature, here's a break down of how our elected representatives get paid. A state representative gets $23,200 per year for two years, this equals $46,400. Take that amount and divide it by the number of required days over the two year period that the state legislature is in session which is 165 days, this means that a representative receives an average of $279 per day or $35 per hour plus per diem. If we follow this progression the representatives would receive $203,670 over their term in office if they worked every day of their term. This may explain the yearly event of extended sessions that we are forced to pay for by their lack of efficiency.

Here is a state that has lost control of its governing body has no accountable leadership to direct its future and continually allows agencies to direct their budgets without having to justify manpower allocations against true labor cost. One example to show how our state agencies protect themselves against budget cuts is to examine titles. One title refers to legislative liasons. This position is paid by agencies to promote and contact state legislators to lobby for the agencies position in issues that affect operation or funding, A LOBBYIST PAID FOR OUT OF THE STATE BUDGET TO THE AGENCY. Therefore the agency needs more money to hire a state paid lobbyist to get a larger budget from the state to hire more staff or purchase new equipment to justify the use and increase in the following years budget.

Now that you have had a view of government spending practices, the way that our schools are operated may be of interest as well. The state has devised a formula to allow schools an operating budget that is based on student enrollment. However, if the enrollment is climbing faster than the state budget allocations, a levy can be taken to the voters and an tax based on property value can be assessed. It seems a good idea on the surface, but at a closer look here is what happens. Schools in growth areas are not allowed to build the new schools to allow for expansion based on the growth pattern even though by the time the school is completed enrollment will be at or over student capacity. Therefore another school must be built and a new levy will be needed and voted on to pay for another new school, all the administrative support personnel and equipment.

School districts continually want community involvement, but that involvement is restricted to verbal in-put only, all other forms are restricted by state regulations and school board interpretations in some way. These events may be the cause for public descent regarding public schools and the shifting by the middle class away from public schools to private schools. Private schools will receive funds and equipment from a wide variety of sources and can direct these resources to the area of greatest need. Because of this, the private schools has greater loyalty among the parents and the students. If the public school districts do not look at these effects the entire public school system my fall victim to social distrust and the disintegration of public support.

The solution is simple, each student is given a voucher for public education. The voucher can be used at any accredited public or private school. Schools that are run efficiently, with quality teachers and support staff would receive the greatest number of students and those schools that are run poorly or does not have teachers of quality will receive little or no students and would close. The vouchers should be able to be used at any accredited public or private school.

Students under the voucher system would move from a grade based system to an achievement system based on abilities not on curriculum. The students entering a class would be given a pre-test prior to the beginning of the class and a post-test at the end of the class. Teachers would then be accountable for students that did not achieve a passing test score at the end of the class, through this process must take into account that some students will not learn some subjects as quickly and the teacher should not be held responsible for the students lack of interest. Parents must also take an active roll in the education of our children in all areas of the educational process.

With the voucher system, public school districts would be forced to look at old equipment and buildings as the liability they have become. The buildings that are too old to maintain properly will be sold and replaced by new buildings financed by public levy, state funding and private support dollars. A streamlining of district management would take place making public schools more cost effective to be enrolled in and a more cohesive society would be the result of this educational system.

Health care is another area of concern for our entire population. With the cost of medical care rising faster than the people who need the services can afford to pay for, the only result is a two class society. A society not based on need but on worth. Those people who can afford the premiums and deductibles receive service and those who work and make just enough to support their families are left with a choice to either provide food, housing, heat or pay an excessive amount of their disposable income for health care premiums. A public health care system will only work if the health care industry (this includes insurance companies, doctors, lawyers, and equipment manufacturers) can stop increasing their operational overhead faster than the population is utilizing the services. The continual expansion of the hospital industry is one cause of the problem. Hospital revenue can be traced by a census of patients (the number of patients in a given period of days). If the census falls below the daily expenses incurred by the hospital, it loses money. That money is made up in one of two ways: either capital investment or increases for services. Since capital investment is in most cases unreliable, the raising of costs is the easy answer and since insurance companies put a limit on the amount they will pay for services the additional cost is paid for by the patient who in most cases does not have time to do price comparisons for services at one hospital versus another.

If Washington State desires a state operated health care system, it must first decide which agency must be responsible for its operational success. That agency must be willing to dedicate a portion of its existing resources to the implementation and profitable operation, otherwise, it will be a greater drain on our limited resources and will cause an even greater budget shortfall on a yearly basis. It will require that all participants control expenses by restraining not restricting the frequency of participant claims. All should be aware that some private institutions will not be part of the health care reform bill and further will not support the system in any manner. With a cohesive society in support of a state sponsored health care system will have far reaching positive effects on our society as a whole.

In an effort to get relief from this frustration caused by individuals, those elected by us who apparently looked for new ways to increase our taxes and spend forecasted revenues faster than received, I am a candidate for state representative, district 22, position #1. I believe that government should act as a cohesive team for the good of all the citizens of the state. Currently, they are working as a cohesive team, for themselves, this must end, today. In the September primary please vote for only those individuals who will promote accountability, responsibility, common sense to our government.

With the cost of medical care rising faster than the people who need the services can afford to pay for, the only result is a two class society.

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Secret Of Great Wealth Revealed!

$ How To Get Rich $

Not A Gimmick! Proven Sucess!

Bill Comiskey

This is the first segment of what hopefully will be a series surveying the rich spectrum of the North American Left and socialist movement. There are many "points of light" out there in America, but not necessarily the ones that George Bush had in mind. The American Left in our time is made up of a bewildering array of parties and groups, having a variety of goals, orientation, and strategies.

No single group has a monopoly on correctness. In this series, I will spotlight various groups on the Left. The Thurston County Rainbow Coalition does not reject nor endorse any of these groups. If we overlook any that you feel are of significance, please let us know!

The following article, written by Bill Comiskey of the Minneapolis-based New Union Party, first appeared in the February issue of the New Unionist. The goal of this group, as stated in their paper, is:

"...to bring the entire economy under the ownership and control of all the people. A democratic economy will provide useful and satisfying jobs for all workers. It will end production for profit and will produce to meet human needs. By eliminating the profit motive, it will end waste and pollution and will make the conditions of work as safe, comfortable, and gratifying as possible.

If you would like to learn more about the New Unionists, write to them at: 621 West Lake Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408.

Understand here and now that this is no gimmick . This is not some shady real-estate scheme or a hot tip at the stock market or a fast horse.

That's right, friends, I, **Bill Comiskey**, am going to tell you a fool-proof way to get rich. If you do what I will be setting down in the next few paragraphs, you will ***become richer than you ever though possible!***

Now, the first thing you're going to say is, 'If you're so smart, how come you're not rich?"

My answer is that there is no correlation between intellect and wealth. As a matter of fact, most of history's great minds have found wealth to be odious.

But that's enough philosophizing. Let's get on with making you rich!

Notice that you work every day, every week, every year. Now, here comes the most critical fact: **THE TRULY RICH DON'T WORK AT ALL!** If you work and are not rich and they don't work and are rich, what's the answer? That's right—***you did the work but they got the money!***

It doesn't matter what you do for a living now, whether you work in a plant, drive a truck, punch data into a CRT or pick peas. You can get rich with the same formula thousands of other people have used to become *fabulously wealthy*.

Understand here and now that this is no gimmick . This is not some shady real-estate scheme or a hot tip at the stock market or a fast horse. The rich make money in the stock market and with real estate, but only after they've *already* become rich. As for the horse, only a fool tries to get rich at the track.

Before I tell you how to get rich, let me tell you why you are **not rich now**. It is important that you know this, so don't skip this and go on to the "how to" part. In order to understand "how to," you've got to know why. So go along with me step by step and envision yourself as the worker in this example:

You're working in a factory making fishing reels (It could be anything, but we'll use reels as an example). You're paid $10.00 an hour for an 8-hour day, 40-hour week, or **$400 per week**. $10.00 an hour is the most you can get. So if you want to make more money, you have to work more hours.

Let's say you take a second job, again at $10.00 per hour, and you work an additional four hours each day. Now you're making **$600 per week.** The only way you can make more money than that is to work more hours, but working more hours doesn't make you rich, just dead.

Sure, you're making more money than you were before, but you still can't stop working and go lie on the beach for the rest of your life.

Why not? *Because as soon as you stop working, the paychecks stop.* Besides, $600 a week isn't going to make you rich. And, as a working man or woman, you are limited to how much money you can make by the number of hours you are able to work. If you never had to sleep and never stopped to eat and worked every available hour in the week, you would still not get rich; rich, that is, the way the ultra-wealthy are rich.

Well, now we get to the "how to do it" part.

In order to make more money you have to do one very simple thing—you *have to have someone else work who will give you a portion of the money they earn.* Once you have done this, your income is no longer restricted to the number of hours in a week. If you can get 2 or 10 or 20 or more people to donate what they earn in 20 or 30 hours of their work each week to you, *YOUR INCOME WILL SOAR INTO THE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS A DAY.* Now you're ready to go shopping for that yacht!

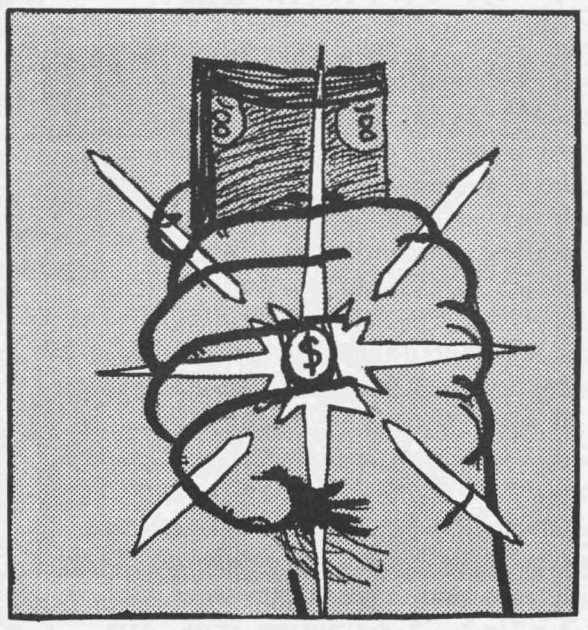
Don't scoff at this and condemn it as a crackpot idea. If you bear with me I'll show you how this is the way rich people got rich and is the way they stay rich. And if you don't believe it can be done, prepare yourself for a shock, because I'm about to tell you one hard, cold fact that you're not going to like, and that fact is this:

THE RICH ARE DOING THIS TO YOU RIGHT NOW. They've had you donating hours of your work to them every day for as long as you've been working!! And that, fellow worker, is why *we're the working poor and they're the idle rich.*

All right, you say, prove it.

OK, follow along. We're going to continue with the fishing reels, but it doesn't matter if you're cutting meat, welding steel or typing letters, this example applies to you.

If you can make 3 fishing reels an hour and each reel has a value of, say, $10, you are producing a value of $30 per hour. In the first 2 hours and 40 minutes of each day you have produced $80 of value. That's fine! But you're getting paid $80 for the day and you've still got 5 hours and 20 minutes to work producing fishing reels *for which you will not get paid.*



If you've produced $80 worth of product in the first 2 hours and 40 minutes, and you're paid $80 for 8 hours of work where does the value of the other 5 hours and 20 minutes go?

You are donating those hours of your labor every day to someone else's welfare. And *welfare* is the correct word. We hear a lot of complaining about welfare these days. Hardly anyone wants to pay welfare to the poor anymore, but rarely do you hear complaints about welfare to the rich.

Imagine now that you've found several hundred or even several thousand workers who are each donating 5 or 6 hours per day to your income. *Think about the thousands and tens of thousands of dollars you would be raking in daily!*

This is not a fantasy. This is life. There are people out there doing it right now. And we, the workers, are here, toiling away day after day, year after year, to keep them in Rolls Royces. In biology books they're identified as parasites. In America they're called privileged. SO IF YOU THINK YOU CAN'T MAKE YOURSELF RICH, THINK ABOUT HOW MANY OTHER PEOPLE YOU'VE ALREADY MADE RICH.

But there is a catch. (You knew all along there'd be a catch, didn't you?) Well, it's really a twofold catch, so let's address them one at a time.

First, you need two traits: greed and callousness. You have to be **greedy** enough to be concerned only with your own comforts and **callous** enough to not care about the poor bastards who are struggling to support you.

The second catch is that the misery you cause in the world will eventually catch up with you. The very wealthy are less and less able to enjoy their stolen wealth. As the world becomes more aware of how they acquired their wealth and of their pillage, they have to keep a low profile. *Some live almost in hiding.*

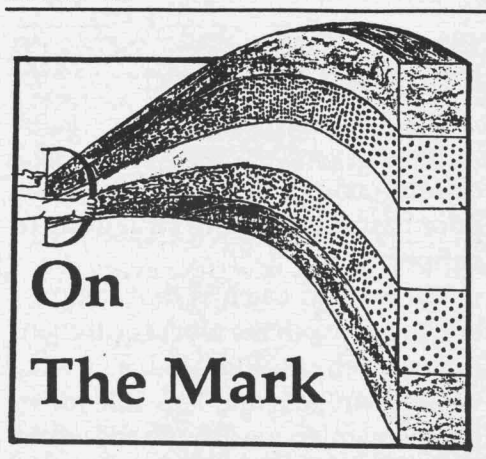
They can no longer flaunt their wealth as they once did. They know that the misery they have sown is rapidly growing into a violent harvest. Look at crime in the streets. Look at terrorism throughout the world. Look at the rise of worker awareness and solidarity. Look at the world sitting on the brink of Armageddon.

So you want to be rich? Good, go ahead, do it. But you're going to have to share the consequences. Why, you ask, can't I get rich and the rest of the world leave me alone to enjoy it? *Because no can get rich, I repeat, NO ONE, without **stealing** it from someone else.*

And therein lies the rub. If 500 people have to be poor so one person can be rich, there will never be peace in the world. Sociologists, criminologists, penologists and the police will give you 9,000 reasons for crime in America and 9,000 ways to combat it. Their answers to the problem are more and bigger prisons, more executions, gun control—the answers and excuses go on and on. Very few people want to face up to and admit that the prime reason for most crime, terrorism and world turmoil is poverty, the **poverty** produced by **capitalism.**

So now you know how to become a millionaire. If, however, you lack the essential qualities of greed, callousness and cruelty, you have two other choices. You can continue to work without protest while the wealthy steal what you produce. Or you can work toward eliminating a system that allows parasites to live off the sweat, labor and anguish of millions of people.

Now that you know how the rich get rich, perhaps you don't want to be one of them after all. Not when you can live in a new society where everyone's life would be enriched.



Dave Jette

A Threat to the Progressive Movement

The March 1992 issue of Works in Progress had as its centerspread a two-page article, "Looking at the Front Men", by Lenora Fulani. That article provides an analysis of the economic views of the Democratic Party's major Presidential candidates, and gives Fulani's view on how to deregulate democracy so that "ordinary people can regain control of the American political process and of our economy". It ends with an appeal, "don't throw your vote away on the assassins of America", which is fitting since, as stated at the beginning of the article, Fulani is a candidate for U.S. President. However, it is only at the end of the article that we learn that she is running for the New Alliance Party, and a contact person is given there for her campaign.

I thought that that article was interesting and useful - in fact, I generally agreed with what it said. Nor is it a problem that it functioned as a campaign appeal for Fulani. The problem with the article was that it promoted the New Alliance Party without identifying who they really are. For, despite their progressive-sounding rhetoric and their running a Black woman for President, they constitute a major danger to the progressive movement, which Works in Progress is dedicated to serving. At best they are an authoritarian cult which sucks up progressive activists in their particular movement, and at worst (which I think is more likely the case) they are a conscious arm of the Right in trying to destroy progressive and Left forces in this country. The purpose of this column is to explain what the New Alliance Party really is and how dangerous it is to us. (I should like to thank my fellow WiP columnist Matt Love for sending me a great deal of information on this organization.)

How Fulani Campaigns

Lenora Fulani was also the 1988 Presidential candidate of the New Alliance Party (NAP). An example of the opportunistic way in which she campaigns, and in which the NAP deals with the progressive movement, is found in her role in a rally against two AIDS-phobic voter propositions in California, held on October 25, 1988 in San Francisco. (This material is taken from an article in Gay Community News of November 6-12, 1988.)

Through conscious design of a NAP member who sat on the committee organizing this rally, Fulani's name was omitted from the first flyer announcing the rally. The committee was not told that Fulani would be speaking until a week before the event, and when the four major gay speakers learned from posters on telephone poles that they were to be sharing the platform with her - her name wasn't on the speakers' list they had been given - they canceled their appearances. When Fulani did speak, she was shouted down when she gave a campaign speech rather than addressing these propositions, as all speakers were supposed to do. The rally was a disaster (although this was in part because, after Fulani spoke, ACT UP speakers took away half the crowd with an unscheduled march).

Why all this antipathy in the lesbian and gay community towards the New Alliance Party, which supports lesbian and gay rights? An understanding of why can be acquired from a letter of July 10, 1989 from the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force to the International Lesbian & Gay Association. This letter, signed by leaders of prominent U.S. lesbian and gay organizations, called upon the ILGA to reject the New Alliance Party's application for membership. One paragraph from that long letter illustrates why they took what they consider to be the "unusual and somewhat extreme measure" in opposing NAP's membership application:

> The New Alliance Party's long and disturbing history is filled with stories of deception, infiltration, disruption, and attempted destruction of autonomous organizations working within larger political movements. Within the past year, no fewer than one dozen gay and lesbian newspapers within the U.S. have published articles documenting an uneasy and sometimes hostile relationship with gay and lesbian activists and organizations. (See background materials.) Time and again, gay and lesbian activists and activists in other progressive movements report feeling exploited and used by the New Alliance Party and its many organizational affiliates to further the Party's own agenda, not the agenda of an autonomous, grassroots gay and lesbian political movement or a larger movement for progressive social change.

In early 1974 Fred Newman, who has always controlled the New Alliance Party, led some forty followers in joining the NCLC, while that organization was continuing physical assaults on local rank-and-file leaders of the United Autoworkers and other industrial unions.

NAP's Tactics

The New Alliance Party's deceptive and disruptive tactics have been documented recently by progressive activists, spurred by Fulani's current Presidential campaign. The May 4, 1992 issue of The Nation has a major article by Bruce Shapiro entitled "Dr. Fulani's Snake-Oil Show", and we present here three paragraphs from it:

> When the NAP can't take over an organization or movement, it resorts to deception, creating a front group that is almost indistinguishable in name from a more broad-based and respected rival, sometimes even holding meetings at competing times. The most famous example is the Rainbow Lobby, which reminds donors in unreadably small footnotes to its fliers that it is not affiliated with Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition. The Rainbow Lobby manages to raise more than $1 million a year, largely through canvassing by social therapy clients and NAP supporters, making it one of the wealthiest public-interest groups in Washington. While it does engage in some ineffectual lobbying on such issues as Haiti and electoral reform, much of the money is channeled back to party campaigns and affiliated businesses.
>
> Another example of NAP's marketing-by-deception occurred in California's East Bay. An Asian-American organization published a newspaper about violence toward Asians called Break the Silence. The NAP, trying to make inroads into the Asian community, put out its own sheet, called Breaking the Silence. Sometimes the scams are darkly comical. Like the time the NAP sought financial donations and endorsements for a dinner honoring A.W. Singham (a revered CUNY professor and specialist in Caribbean history who was a member of The Nation's editorial board until his death last year) without telling Singham anything about it. Like the "gallery" that enables the NAP to present its lower Manhattan headquarters as the Castillo Cultural Center: Art covers only one wall in a lobby, behind which are extensive social therapy and business offices. Like the hornswoggling of Richard Serra, Christo and other artists into donating their work for a Castillo Cultural Center auction without once letting them in on the event's real sponsor and beneficiary.
>
> Such deceitful and disruptive tactics are not aimed exclusively at the white left. In New York in 1990, for instance, NAP challenged the ballot petitions of an independent black campaign slate, the All-African Unity Party, claiming they lacked adequate signatures. The A.A.U.P. ultimately remained on the ballot, but its resources were badly drained by the confrontation. This year Lenora Fulani publicly derided organizers of a national conference in Washington on independent black politics as being "on a mission of a white racist Democratic party". And Fulani regularly refers to Jesse Jackson as "a complete sellout - Jesse sold his soul for a show on CNN".

NAP at the Personal Level

The New Alliance Party functions as a cult which totally envelopes and controls the lives of its members. Here is the testimony of a former member now living in California. (Sorry, I don't have the reference for this article, of which I've quoted less than half. It is headed "A New Alliance Story" and was in a packet of information on the NAP which came from Chip Berlet, as described below.)

> My experience with NAP was a nightmare. I am a white, working class lesbian and met NAP in Indiana where I was living at the time. NAP was in Indiana petitioning to put Fulani's name on the ballot there. I was so excited and so moved to find that a black woman was running for president that I immediately began working for the campaign. I also fell in love with a woman working on the campaign. When it came time for NAP to leave Indiana, she asked me to go with them, and I did. I wanted to be part of putting Fulani on the ballot in every state in this country; it felt like a very decent thing to do. Once I made the decision to go with the campaign I asked for two weeks to make preparations to leave. When instructions came back from the national office in New York, I was given 48 hours to prepare. I quit my job, left my home, my friends, put my belonging in storage, found a home for my pet, and gave the use of my car to NAP in exchange for their taking over payments.
>
> I traveled with the campaign for two and one half months, first petitioning and later fundraising. It was one of the most difficult experiences of my life. NAP claims to be a multiracial, black led, woman led, pro gay, political party, an organization which recognizes and fights against racism, sexism, classism and homophobia - but NAP is a lie. NAP is always using the slogan: "the personal is political" and emphasizing the importance of enacting one's politics into daily life. But this vision and the way their politics are enacted within the organization and life of those working for them is very much in conflict. As a working class lesbian, I thought I had finally found a political movement which included me. What I found instead was an oppressive, disempowering, misogynistic machine. All my decisions were made for me by someone else. I was told where to go, when to go, and whom to go with. I worked 7 days a week - 16 to 20 hours a day. (I had 2 days off in 2 1/2 months.) There was an incredible urgency in the people working for the campaign, an urgency which overroad any personal needs or considerations, an urgency that meant complete self-sacrifice. I realize now how sexist that is. As a

woman I have always been taught that self-sacrifice is good and that I must be willing to give up everything for a greater good for all. Traditionally this has come in the form of a husband and children; NAP is simply a substitute. I felt totally powerless over my life, forced into a very submissive role where all control of my life belonged to someone else. I felt more oppressed by NAP than I have ever felt in the outside world. I had given up everything for the campaign, my job, my home and my support system. I felt desperate. My lover, who has dedicated her life to NAP, tried very hard to be supportive, though I was never able to tell her how I really felt. In her eyes, she was the work she did and the work was first. Human relationships were second and stifling to political growth. I knew that my differences with NAP would destroy our relationship, so I tried to ignore my feelings.

LaRouche Connection

A systematic analysis of the New Alliance Party has been carried out by Chip Berlet of Political Research Associates, an independent research institute which collects and disseminates information on right-wing political groups and trends. For the NAP's early connection with Lyndon LaRouche, we shall be looking at Berlet's report, "Clouds Blur the Rainbow: The Other Side of the New Alliance Party", which is available for $5.00 from Political Research Associates, 678 Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 205, Cambridge, MA 02139. This edition of that report was published in 1987, but he is now updating it. (With the earlier report he includes very extensive reprints and clippings, which were invaluable for me in understanding the true nature of the NAP and in writing this column.)

It may be recalled that the LaRouche organization, operating under various names and front groups over the years, originally posed as a left-wing labor-oriented organization (the "National Caucus of Labor Committees"). Now, of course, it is an explicitly right-wing populist cult, but even when it was physically attacking members of the Communist Party USA and the Socialist Workers Party, during its "Operation Mop-up" starting in May, it pretended to be leftist. In early 1974 Fred Newman, who has always controlled the New Alliance Party, led some forty followers in joining the NCLC, while that organization was continuing physical assaults on local rank-and-file leaders of the United Autoworkers and other industrial unions.

The Newmanites withdrew from the NCLC in the summer of 1974, to go their own way in the movement (while continuing to uphold the importance of the LaRouchites, in a letter to them of August 26, 1974). They thereupon founded the International Workers Party, which is what actually controls the New Alliance Party. (And the IWP is controlled by Fred Newman.) As Berlet points out,

> The question is not how long the Newmanites worked under the political leadership of Lyndon LaRouche, but how they can explain what attracted Newman and his followers to LaRouche in the first place. To this day NAP leadership has refused to renounce or to deal candidly or accurately with the fact that the Newmanites at one time joined an organization which was at best a collection of paranoid sexist homophobic thugs and at worst a nascent fascist political movement.

Lenora Fulani is not the only Black Presidential candidate whom the New Alliance Party has run. In 1984 it ran Dennis Serrette, who shortly thereafter quit NAP.

Another NAP Candidate

Lenora Fulani is not the only Black Presidential candidate whom the New Alliance Party has run. In 1984 it ran Dennis Serrette, who shortly thereafter quit NAP. Serrette has written an article, "Inside the New Alliance Party", which was published in the Winter 1988 edition of *Radical America* (*vol.* 21, no. 5). That article describes his experiences with and analysis of the NAP, and we shall here quote its concluding paragraphs. An important way in which NAP maintains control of its membership is through their mandatory participation in Newman's creation, "social therapy", as Serrette explains:

> Therapy, NAP style, is a method of recruiting innocent, vulnerable people, exploiting their vulnerabilities, and controlling their behavior.
>
> As noted earlier, all members were required to attend therapy at least once a week. Some attend twice a week or, at times, even daily. Particular "patients" were targeted in sessions. The entire group then generally converged on the victim who generally broke down in tears. They are then forgiven, accepted, and praised. Topics range from the most personal aspects of one's life to the failure to give enough of oneself to the organization.
>
> According to the tenets of "social therapy", private time, private thoughts, "critical faculties" are all bourgeois. One can only be cured of their bourgeois ideology in social therapy. If you disagree at all with one of Newman's black lieutenants, the entire therapy group attacks you for being racist. If you disagree with a woman therapist, the entire group attacks you for being sexist. If you question the opinions of the therapist, you are resorting to your bourgeois critical faculties .
>
> Members are kept busy from sun-up, way past sun-down. Members no longer have time to call family to visit, even to attend funerals, holidays, or other special events. When members do visit their families, more often than not another IWP [International Workers Party, see above] member accompanies them. (Generally, members have alienated themselves from all their other friends and all their close relationships are with fellow IWPers.) Members generally share apartments, living communally, and often invite new recruits to move in with them. Members and potential members were often encouraged to quit their pre-IWP job, unless their job position could be exploited .
>
> Any problems that arose from this extreme regimentation were dealt with in therapy. Bourgeois thinking, problems with "giving it all for the revolution" were dealt with by the group that had become the member's entire world; that knew their every vulnerability; that shaped their thinking and understanding of people, events, history.
>
> These few pages offer but an overview of complex, and in my opinion, dangerous organization. Dangerous, not only to the innocent, well-intentioned people who are caught in its grasp, but to the many it will try to exploit. Dangerous, because it uses a very progressive line, and untold millions of dollars, to prey on black communities, to attack black leaders and institutions, and to assault progressive organizations at whim. Dangerous because it can lie outright- lie about being black-led when blacks do not sit on the top, do not control the resources, do not control personnel; lie to its members about its participation with LaRouche; lie about Charles Tisdale [the publisher of a progressive Black-oriented newspaper in Jackson, Mississippi who ran a series of articles exposing the NAP and was then sued by NAP for $1 million - this libel suit was thrown out of court]; lie about me; lie about whatever serves Newman's interests, and put forth spokespersons who come to believe these lies. Dangerous because many members will do whatever they are told to do without ever evaluating what they have been told.
>
> In conclusion, while I believe it is important that NAP be exposed for what it truly is, it is our job not to dwell on the organization, which craves controversy, but to concentrate our energies in our communities and organize, organize, organize. It is a vacuum that has been left open that allows NAP and other oppressive organizations to abuse our communities. We must fill that vacuum with genuinely progressive, community-controlled organizations.

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Boycott Stone-Washed Jeans

Stop Trashin' Land for Fashion

Zachary D. Lyons

"Virtually all manufacturers of denim clothing carry a line of stone- or acid-washed products," states Gary Schiffmiller of the Jemez Action Group (JAG). While JAG is boycotting all stone-washed clothing, they have chosen to focus the sharpest attention on the industry's effect on the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico. They believe that the environmental damage caused by stripmining operations to extract the pumice used in the stone-washing process is unjustifiable simply to create fashionable clothing.

"Companies that specialize in stone-washing denim are virtually all located in El Paso, Texas," JAG's Schiffmiller says. "We believe they are in El Paso because of its proximity to cheap Mexican labor and abundant pumice supplies, as New Mexico is the largest [extractor] of pumice in the U.S."

"The type of pumice mined in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico (by Richard Cook's Copar Pumice Co.) is particularly suited to the denim processing techniques that call for bleach and/or other chemicals to be transported to the fabric by the pumice," Schiffmiller explains. "This is because of its ability to absorb liquids more readily than most other pumice."

Copar Pumice Co. is currently stripmining 11 acres of a 33 acre claim at its Las Conchas Mine in the Jemez Mountains. Copar has filed claims on an additional 6800 acres and is seeking to patent, or privatize, 1700 acres under provisions of the 1872 Mining Law, which allows mining companies to privatize federal land for the 1872 price of $2.50 per acre, according to a Jemez Action Group report. "Other interests have claims on nearly 15,000 acres in the East Fork area of the Santa Fe National Forest, indicating that this popular recreation spot may soon become a major mining zone," JAG observes.

"The cumulative impacts of stripmining even a fraction of the land under claim will be devastating to wildlife, water quality and recreational opportunities. The mixed conifer forest of the Jemez Mountains is critical habitat for the Native Wood Lily, the Jemez Mountain Salamander, the Peregrine Falcon, the Spotted Bat, and the Mexican Spotted Owl - all threatened and endangered species. The Wild and Scenic East Fork of the Jemez River, considered to be one of the ten most threatened rivers in the USA, is only 1/4 mile from the mine. If the land is patented, it becomes private property and federal regulations regarding reclamation and the protection of endangered species will no longer apply. The Forest Service claims that mining in the Jemez will have 'no significant cumulative impact.' We strongly disagree," the JAG report argues.

The Jemez Action Group is demanding that clothing manufacturers stop using pumice to process jeans and other denim products.

The Boycott Monthly solicited responses to JAG's allegations from four jeans manufacturers: Wrangler, Jordache Enterprises, Lee Apparel and Levi Strauss & Co. After three attempts to solicit a response from Jordache, once by registered mail, we can only conclude that Jordache has actively chosen not to respond. What we received from the other three companies follows below.

"Wrangler, one of the nation's leading manufacturers of jeans and denim related apparel, currently purchases less than an estimated 10 percent of our pumice stone from New Mexico," writes Mackey J. McDonald, President of Wrangler.

"In 1991, we reduced our pumice usage by more than 25 percent per dozen on our stone-washed denim. Due to environmental, quality control and cost concerns, we are continually looking for ways to reduce our use of stone," McDonald continued. "We are beginning to use alternative methods of finishing our denim including the use of natural, organic enzymes which chemically, rather than physically, distress the fabric."

> ***"The cumulative impacts of stripmining even a fraction of the land under claim will be devastating to wildlife, water quality and recreational opportunities."***

David A. Brown, Vice President for Human Resources for the Lee Company responded that, "the Lee Company, one of the nation's leading marketers and manufacturers of jeans and denim-related apparel, currently purchases no pumice stone from New Mexico. In fact, the vast majority of our pumice comes from Turkey."

"The Lee Company is using 33% less stone in 1992 than 1990," reports Brown. "As we continue to derive new technologies relative to denim finishing, we are searching for alternatives to further reduce our need for pumice or eliminate its use entirely."

And David A. Samson, Manager of Corporate Communications for Levi Strauss & Co. (Levi's) argues, "the Jemez Action Group has been distributing information that strongly implies that Levi Strauss & Co. sources its pumice from the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico. In fact, the company sources no pumice from New Mexico, with the vast majority of its pumice coming from Turkey." And Samson adds, "It is the by-product of a brick manufacturing company in that country. We also encourage our contractors to purchase pumice stones from the same source."

"Whether intentional or not, the Jemez Action Group is misleading the public through their continued dissemination of inaccurate information," charges Samson. "We would hope that your publication does not help foster their false implications.

"As [Levi's] continues to update and introduce new denim finishing technologies, we have reduced our use of pumice on a per unit basis and we are searching for alternatives to further reduce or eliminate its use.

"[Levi's] shares the concerns of consumers regarding the responsible use of our natural resources," Samson continues. "We are committed to protecting the environment in communities around the world in which we operate and to conduct our business in an environmentally responsible way."

But JAG's Schiffmiller sees it differently. "Levi's denies using New Mexico pumice. They say they get their pumice from Turkey. Regardless, we feel that mining the earth for such totally non-essential purposes is indefensible." Schiffmiller further asserts that, "there will soon be an alternative to pumice for the stone-washing process. It is made out of recycled glass. When [JAG] finds out which companies, if any, use it, we will call off the boycott against those companies."

"We have tried unsuccessfully to gain information on [the recycled glass] process," Levi Strauss's Samson contends. "Certainly, we would be willing to explore this alternative if anyone can provide us with additional information or put us in touch with a reliable source."

"We fully expect that while many consumers will find our actions responsible, others will not accept any solution short of eliminating the use of pumice stones entirely," Samson acknowledges. "It is our hope, however, that the Center for Economic Democracy can help ensure that its readers are able to base their opinions on truthful information."

"Levi's has responded more fully to our concerns than any other company. We appreciate this," the Jemez Action Group's Schiffmiller notes. "We regret that Levi's considers our information to be misleading. We strive to be truthful. We have **never** specifically claimed that Levi's sources their pumice from New Mexico. As previously stated, we oppose the use of pumice from any source in the processing of denim. Levi's claims that their pumice is the by-product of a brick manufacturing company in Turkey. ...we suspect that Turkey's environmental regulations regarding the strip-mining of pumice to be lax at best. Also, the pumice used in the manufacture of masonry products is small in size. The pumice used for stone-washed jeans is comparatively large. Most masonry manufacturers crush the large-sized pumice for their bricks. Perhaps this particular Turkish company finds it more profitable to sell their large pumice to denim processors in the U.S. In any case, this increases the demand for strip-mined pumice in Turkey.

"Having said that, we would like to point out that Levi's is probably the most sensitive to environmental concerns of all the denim manufacturers. We expect that they will be among the first to use recycled glass alternatives to pumice as they become commercially available. They have run some preliminary tests on the product with excellent results. If and when they switch to recycled glass, we will call off our boycott against their stone-washed products.

"About the recycled glass product: Henry Oat of Santa Fe, NM (who is in no way connected to JAG or the stone-washed jeans boycott) has patented a process to convert recycled glass into a substitute for pumice," Schiffmiller continues. "He has worked with Levi's and their preliminary test results (referred to earlier) show that recycled glass outperforms natural pumice. Henry is currently looking for financial backing to turn his patent into a commercially viable operation."

"In El Paso... 1 to 1.5 million pounds of pumice are used and discarded each week," adds Schiffmiller. "This all ends up in the city's solid waste stream. The recycled glass product is much more durable than natural pumice, so the volume of solid waste from denim processing would be reduced."

For more information, or to express your concerns, you may contact the Jemez Action Group or any of the four jeans manufacturers as follows:

Jemez Action Group
Post Office Box 8659
Santa Fe, NM 87504
(505) 984-1428

Jordache Enterprises
226 W. 37th St.
New York, NY 10018
(212) 643-8500

Wrangler
Post Office Box 21488
Greensboro, NC 27420
(919) 373-3400

Lee Apparel
9001 W. 67th
Merriam, KS 66202
(913) 384-4000

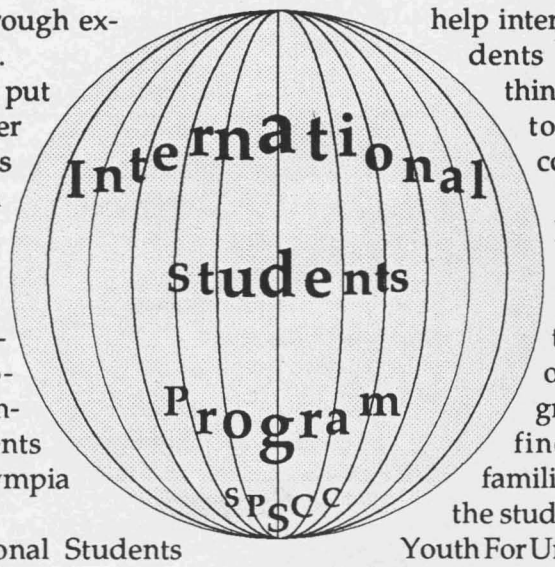
Levi Strauss & Co.
1155 Battery St.
San Francisco, CA 94111
1-800-227-5600

The Boycott Monthly *is written by Zachary D. Lyons and published by the Center for Economic Democracy (CED), PO Box 64, Olympia, WA 98507-0064.* *©1992 CED.*

New International Exchange Program at South Puget Sound Needs Community Support

SPSCC

Maureen Sheimo may speak softly, but she holds a dream as big as this world. Maureen believes that one of the most effective ways to nurture greater international understanding is through exchange programs.



Maureen has put her career where her mouth is. She has taken the lead in building a program at South Puget Sound Community College which provides support to international students who come to Olympia to attend college.

The International Students Office has been remarkably successful during its three-year life. This fall, Maureen expects a record 55 students from 23 nations will be attending South Puget Sound.

Last spring the International Students Office took on its biggest challenge to date: It cemented a partnership with the respected international exchange organization, Youth For Understanding. South Puget Sound agreed to host 11 international students for the 1992-93 school year. The nations students come from include Venezuela, Mexico, Norway, Belgium, Denmark , the Netherlands and Switzerland.

Providing on-campus support is the easy part, since Maureen already has a well-oiled program to help international students with everything from visas to academic counseling.

Early on, however, Maureen realized that the tricky part of the program would be finding host families for each of the students. Neither Youth For Understanding nor the college are able to provide families with financial compensation for hosting the students between September 1992 and June 1993.

Bringing a host student into one's home is a significant obligation, but Maureen and Host Family Coordinator Marchelle Morgan are passionate in describing the value of supporting the exchange program.

"In opening your home to host a student, your family becomes an international family," says Maureen. "The new bonds that you build could last a lifetime."

The Youth For Understanding Community College program differs from other host family programs.

"These are college-level students, with relatively high levels of English skills, who are enrolled in college-level programs," says Maureen. "These students bring a level of maturity and a different range of interests from high school aged students."

Each of the exchange students will be attending South Puget Sound Community College. In addition to pre-arrival, post-arrival and pre-departure orientations, the college will provide assistance in response to any problems that may arise. The college is also sponsoring a comprehensive cultural enrichment program for the students with field trips around the state and planned activities for them and their host families.

Families are carefully matched with students. For example, Maureen would like to find a local media professional to host Mikkel Madsen, a 19-year-old Dane who plans to become a journalist.

The exchange students were selected by Youth For Understanding, which is a non-profit organization that has coordinated the exchanges of more than 150,000 people.

"I'm looking forward to building a long-term relationship with Youth For Understanding that will extend the many benefits of exchanges to both international and American students," Maureen says.

First things first, however. As this is written in mid-July, more host families are needed.

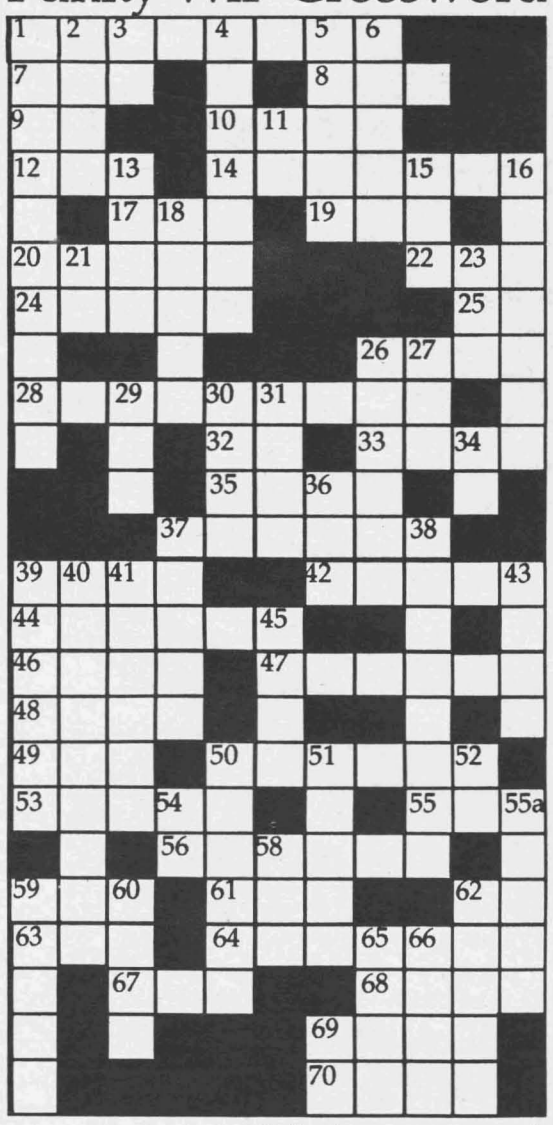
If, like Maureen, you believe in the importance of international exchanges, take the time to find out more about the Youth For Understanding program. Maureen or Marchelle would be happy to talk to you individually or make a presentation to a civic group to which you belong.

Given them a call at 754-7711, ext. 247. After all, dreams as big as this world don't become a reality without a little community support.

"In opening your home to host a student, your family becomes an international family," says Maureen. "The new bonds that you build could last a lifetime."

Funky WiP Crossword

by Jerome Johnson



Solution next month

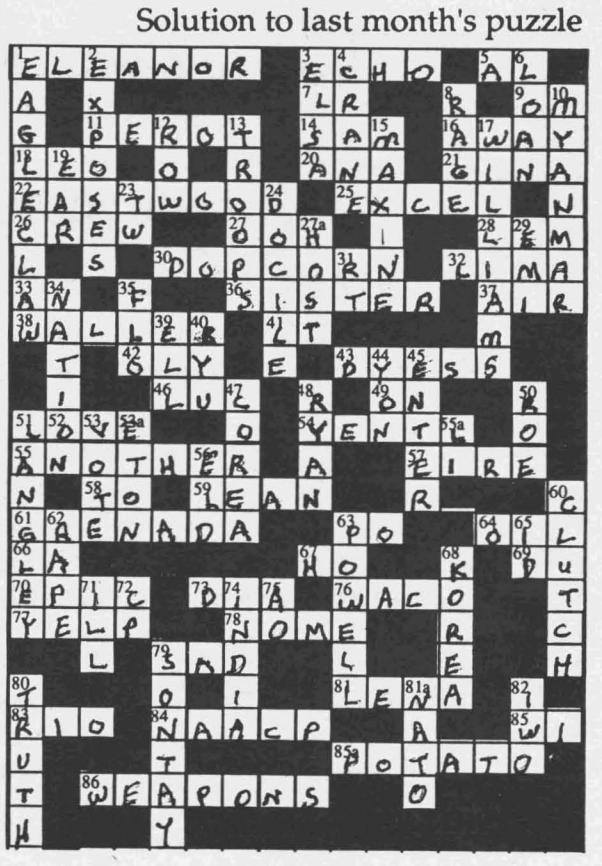
Across

1. County Commissioner Candidate Teresa _____
7. Metaphysicist Geller
8. Logger's target
9. Neither, in Latin
10. "Dies _____"
12. Ensign (abbrev.)
14. Middle Eastern city (2 words
17. _____ Chi Ch'uan
19. _____ Lanka
20. Author Jong
22. Military Airlift Command (abbrev.)
24. Actor Flynn
25. Christian Era (abbrev.)
26. Margaret Thatcher, for one
28. Al Gore's state
32. Louisiana, abbrev.
33. Not work
35. Lay Association fo American Protestants (abbrev.)
37. Unit of measure for Captains Kirk and Picard
39. Swedish rock group
42. DNC Chairman Ron
44. Superior Court candidate Darkenwald
46. Pacific island
47. Capital High's mascot
48. Soapy foam
49. Rocker Rose
50. Meatpacker John
53. Louisiana Swamp
55. Hotel
56. Civil Warrior Harriet
61. Southeast Asia minority
62. Public relations (abbrev.)
63. To employ a tool
64. US Congresswoman
67. Japanese karate school
68. Under, in French
69. Molten waste
70. Flagmaker Betsy

Down

1. African-American holiday
2. Woman's name
3. Neither, in Latin
4. Letter of one's name
5. Things to reach
6. Presidents do it solemnly
11. Concerning, in Latin
13. Something cooks do
15. _____ and vigor
16. Colonical official
18. Nut
21. Railroad (abbrev.)
23. Playing card
26. Spice
27. Sea creature
29. National Organization for Women (abbrev.)
30. Actress Joyce
31. German river
34. Adjutant General (abbrev.)
36. Associated Student Body (abbrev.)
37. French city
39. Agricultural Businessmen's Association and Brotherhood (abbrev.)
40. _____ Academy (2 words)
41. "To _____ go where no one has gone before."
43. Roman emperor
45. Evergreen Community College Organization (abbrev.)
50. Women's garment
51. Phillippine president
52. Lane, (abbrev.)
54. Oliver Tambo, init.
55a. "Revenge of the ____"
58. Mr. Franklin
59. Perfect
60. South American nation
62. Stoppers
65. Scandanavian city
66. European Operations, American Services, (abbrev.)
69. Senior, (abbrev.)

Solution to last month's puzzle



(Hate Crimes, Cont.)

ACLU staff believe a malicious harassment law can be written even after the St. Paul decision. He expects the Washington bill to come up again in the next legislative session. "This is one of those times when there is a coming together of two constitutional protections for citizens [free speech and protection from threatening and intimidating activity]. We just have to figure out where the balance will be struck."

Joli Sandoz writes occasionally for Works in Progress

What is Malicious Harassment?

Joli Sandoz

You may have experienced malicious harassment if someone has:

1. physically injured you;
2. damaged your property; or
3. by words or conduct, placed you or another person in reasonable fear of harm to person or property.

For example, incidents of malicious harassment include cross-burning, intimidating written or oral communications or the defacement of property with symbols or words that have traditionally connoted hatred, or a threat toward a victim.

It is not malicious harassment for someone to speak or act in a critical, insulting or disapproving way unless the context surrounding the words or conduct makes you fear that this person may actually harm you or your property, or harm another person's safety or property.

How to Report an Incident

1. Leave all evidence of the incident in place.
2. Call 911 or your local police and have a report taken. Obtain copies of your police report.
3. Document the incident by photographing the evidence and writing down the facts of what happened. Make sure you write down who said what. Don't forget to write down anything derogatory that was said.
4. Notify an organization familiar with malicious harassment for support, referrals and information on the next steps to take.

This information is used by permission from the brochure "How To Fight Malicious Harassment", Washington State Commission on Asian American Affairs, 206-464-5820 (Seattle), 206-753-7053 (Olympia).

Crime Victim Advocacy

The state Office of Crime Victim's Advocacy, part of the Department of Community Development, will take reports of hate crimes for documentation, not prosecution, purposes, and refer callers to resources in their own communities. Staff can also advocate on behalf of victims who have tried to access local services and feel they have been denied. Phone numbers are 493-2760 (Olympia area), 1-800-822-1067 (State wide).

From Olympia to Australia

Margery Sayre

Would you/your family/ your friends enjoy two weeks of homestay visits in two towns on the south coast of Australia?

The Friendship Force of Olympia is looking for folks who wish to join their October 12-28 trip to Mount Gambier (near Melbourne) and Murray Bridge (near Adelaide). Cost: $1,745 for this opportunity to begin making friends across national borders.

Founded in 1977 -- and operating in Olympia since 1979 -- the Friendship Force is a private, non-profit organization trying to create a world of friends in a world of peace (currently active in 40 countries).

Interested? Call Margery Sayre, exchange director, at 352-7174 or Jocelyn Dohm at 357-3855.

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